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EMU plans may collapse within weeks

egend of Byita

A nation in uproar

Section Two

France and Germany 'to pull out'

MICHAEL SHERIDAN Diplomatic Correspondent and SARAH HELM

The French and German governments will admit within weeks that the European Monetary Union may have to be postponed, senior British Government figures believe.

The recession in Germany and social unrest in France have made it impossible for EMU to go ahead in 1999 as planned, according to the Maas-tricht Treaty timetable, senior

ministers say. They believe that "the moment of truth is approaching - not about the principle of EMU but about the dates. A groundswell of public criticism by European political and financial leaders will force the French and German governments to clarify their intentions in the next few weeks, the

ministers say privately. They conclude that France and Germany will need to announce either a change to the date set for monetary union or a change to the rigid financial criteria for membership of the single currency imposed by the Maastricht Treaty. But there is agreement that the Government should remain officially silent while doubts are beaped. on the project by some of its to fuel the crisis. A collapse of most fervent supporters, such as the former EU Commission

President Jacques Delors.
The French and German governments announced yesterday that there was no question of re-examining the 1999 terms and timetable for EMU. But the public facade masks confusion and uncertainty, at least in Paris. Two senior French ministers broke ranks with the official line yesterday, although one recanted later under government pressure. The industry EMU to go ahead on schedule. sels next Monday.

minister, Franck Borotra, said that if he had to choose between Maastricht and jobs, he would choose jobs. The Foreign Minister. Hervé de Charette, told a French radio station that it might be useful to interpret the rigid EMU conditions on public spending more flexibly, as proposed on Wednesday by the former President, Valery Giscard d'Estaing. But Mr de



Helmut Kohl: Holds key to future of single currency

Despite mounting doubts about EMU across the continent, officials in Brussels said dire predictions in London of imminent collapse could be motivated in part by wish-fulfilment and a political decision monetary union now would give an enormous political boost to Mr Major, defusing Euro-sceptic attacks.

One official, close to EMU policy-making, said he was "astonished" to hear that British ministers were taking such an apocalyptic line, which was entirely out of tune with the official Foreign Office assessment. The Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, also told reporters this

people have raised questions this week should mean that suddenly everyone - the Germans included - are going to lose their cool and allow the thing to collapse in weeks seems extraordinary," said one source.

But senior British sources say all will depend on whether Chancellor Kohl of Germany can be prevailed upon to relax the financial conditions by President Jacques Chirac of France, who faces further domestic political upheaval if he pushes ahead with the rapid public spending cuts needed to qually the franc for EMU membership. The verdict in London is that Chancellor Kohl will not he able to overcome monetarist resistance by the Bundesbank and doubts by German public

Particular attention has been attracted by the statement earlier this week by the Spanish Minister Carlos Westendorp, one of the key players in driving forward formal proposals for closer European integration. Mr Westendorp said it might be necessary to "stop the clock" on EMU - in other words freeze the timetable, rather than formally admit to a delay.

British Ministers discount speculation on the financial markets that Chancellor Kohl and President Chirac could defy the sceptics and stage a lightning move to link their currencies immediately, accompanied by a one time devaluation of the French franc. It is thought that any such move would generate "huge resentment" and among countries such as Italy. Spain and the Benelux. The crisis over EMU is certain to be discussed at least in the margins of a meeting of European Foreign Ministers week that he still expected scheduled to take place in Brus-

New Labour, new media, new message?



sterday's launch of New Labour's £2m media centre at Milibank Tower in central London the party's spin doctors will be slicker than ever. The 20,000, square feet super high-tech centre will

plete with its mysterious computer Excalibur, campaign project units, and key seats unit. Oh yes, there's policy as well.

Facilities at the centre include state of the art lightbring together over 100 staff in the party's media of-fice, its famous "instant response" rebuttal unit - com-flat screen video walls and fibre optic link to broad-

cast links "throughout the world". Tony Blair (centre), John Prescott (second right), Robin Cook (left), Tom Sawyer (second left) and Gordon Brown (in praying pose) were much in evidence at the launch and

Irish accuse Major of bad faith

COLIN BROWN and Katherine Butler in Stras

John Major last night sought to heal a damaging rift with John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, after British plans for elections to force a breakthrough in the stalled Northern Ireland peace process led to accusations of a bad faith by Lon-

The disagreement threatened to sour relations between the two Prime Ministers. Mr Bruton and Dick Spring, the Irish Foreign Minister, accused

ly, after being caught off-guard. The SDLP leader, John Hume, was wrong-footed, and on the defensive vesterday after anpearing to condemn democratic elections, which he warned would lead to a "shouting

match" Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, said the prospect of a "shouting match" was better than a "shooting match" and British officials angrily denied the British attitude threatened a return to

"Tell that to the IRA., We are

find a mechanism that is acceptable to all the parties that gets us into all party negotia-tions," said one senior official.

Irish nationalist politicians vesterday remained unconvinced by British assurances that John Major's proposal of a new elected body was not a device to mollify Unionist MPs and to further postpone all-party negotiations.

Much bitterness was evident both at Mr Major's sudden change of tack and by the way in which he went about it.

ambush.

Dublin sources rejected Downing Street claims that the Taoiseach, John Bruton, had been properly informed by Mr Major in advance of his surprise Commons announcement. Sinn Fein president Gerry

Adams, meanwhile, said it was opposed to the proposal and accused the Prime Minister of acting in bad faith. "Mr Major rejected the core of the Mitchell report, scuppered the twintrack approach and the February date for all-party talks, and which was variously described in their place has produced a could "live with".

Mr Major of acting unilateral- working our butts off trying to as a political mugging and an new pre-condition based on a Unionist proposal," he said. Downing Street officials

were stung by the reaction from the Irish Government and insisted that Mr Bruton had been kept fully informed of the British plans with a telephone call between the two Prime Ministers on Tuesday evening, and in an exchange of their statements before they were made to the two parliaments.

The Prime Minister's officials said Mr Bruton had given the impression that the proposal for elections was something Dublin

IN BRIEF 'Unlawful killing' verdict A jury yesterday returned a ver-

dict of unlawful killing at the inquest of an asylum seeker who died after a struggle with police officers who were trying to arrest him in Stoke Newington, Rifle execution

A child killer and rapist who

said that he would rather die at

the point of a ritle than by lethal

injection awaited the first exe-

cution by firing squad in the United States in 19 years early Today's weather



Official: loud rock music falls on truly deaf ears

CHARLES ARTHUR Science Correspondent

Scientists have confirmed what parents have known for years: that ear-blasting rock concerts and long nights at discos can turn you deaf.

New research suggests that thousands of young people could develop serious hearing problems much sooner than their predecessors, where deafness generally develops after the age of 60. It also suggests that noise from leisure pursuits has replaced workplace noise as the biggest risk to hearing. Yet there are no legal limits on the sound levels permissible at clubs or concerts - even if they would be illegal in a factory.

A study of 1,364 people aged between 14 and 40 in the city of Nancy, France, found that, of those who went to rock concerts once a month, 44 per cent showed symptoms of temporary hearing loss. This included ringing in the ears – tinnitus – and deadened hearing. The research, by a French hearing spe-cialist, also showed that almost two-thirds of those who went to

concerts more than twice a month had such symptoms. Meanwhile, in the UK, a wide-ranging study by the Medical Research Council in Nottingham indicates that young people who go regularly to clubs are three times more like-Adrian Davis, who headed the resorted to ear-plugs.

study, will tell an international conference in June that about 30 per cent of young British adults experience significant exposure to high levels of noise and complain of problems conducting conversations against a

background noise.

Sound levels at rock concerts and chibs often top 100 decibels, compared to the legal level permitted by the Health and Safety Executive, which is an average of 85dB over eight hours. A number of rock musicians have suffered serious hearing loss, including Pete Townsend the Who's guitarist, and the heavy metal band Metallica. Dr Davis said some bands and sely to complain of tinnitus. Dr curity staff at their concerts had

Howe rails against Scott

Westminster Correspondent

Lord Howe, the former Foreign Secretary, yesterday launched a ferocious attack on Sir Richard Scott, as the Conservatives appeared to open a concerted preemptive strike against his arms-to-Iraq report, due next month.

Lord Howe castigated Sir Richard in The Spectator. Sir Bernard Ingham. Baroness Thatcher's former press secretary, simultaneously fired another broadside in the Daily Express, claiming Sir Richard, a senior judge, risked causing 'grievous bodily harm" to the udiciary. Robin Cook, Labour's Shadow Foreign Secretary, said: We had expected there to be a backlash. The Conservatives are clearly worried about what the report might say?.



Sir Richard Scott: Fierce attack on his procedures

Both authors pursued identical themes. "This is a story in which there are no villains," wrote Lord Howe. "British pol-

icy was in principle almost sanc-

timoniously virtuous. Almost

alone among the industrial nations, we had banned the supply of 'defence-related equipment to Iran and Iraq alike. From one or other of our competitors - the Soviet Union or Germany, China or France these weapons were always available. Not from Britain." Sir Bernard's article contin-

ued the theme: "Judges dry or wet - and Sir Richard is waterlogged - should not be asked to pronounce on how governments have reconciled the national interest in the shifting sands of Middle East politics, when our less scrupulous competitors are scrambling for every arms contract they can lay

their hands on. Lord Howe lambasted Sir Richard for not allowing legal representation for witnesses.

which was recommended for in-

ARTS 8-9 CLASSICAL MUSIC 14-16 CROSSWORD 33 JOHN LYTTLE 7 LISTINGS 20-25

METRO 18,19 POKER 33 POP MUSIC 10-13 REVIEWS 9 TV & RADIO 26-35 WEATHER 33

quisitorial inquiries by the Salmon Commission in the 1960s. He said it was an elementary right for a witness to be examined by one's own lawyer, and of having adverse evidence tested by cross-exam-

ly, by the Scott Inquiry."
Sir Richard, Lord Howe wrote, "had indeed explicitly discarded the established principles." This was echoed by Sir Bernard: "Sir Richard will make what are essentially political judgments after astonishingly adversarial hearings, which ignored half the principles for the conduct of inquiries laid down by Lord Justice Salmon in 1966."

Lord Howe criticised "Sir Richard's iconoclastic decision thus to engage himself at the inquisitorial heart of matters".

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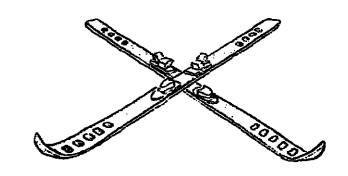
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IN BRIEF

emergency measurer while the

region's water shortage crisis

This is the judgement of

Government inspector Stuart

Nixon, who held a public inquay

into the company's application

for an emergency drought or-

der last November. If granted

it would have allowed Yorkshire

Water to cut off more than half

grew, it was revealed.

Yorkshire water faces drought rap Drought-hit Yorkshire Water wasted two months last summer during which it failed to plan

Sexism storm as women-only book prize launches

MARIANNE MACDONALD Media Correspondent

The founders of Britain's newest and largest book prize denied sexism at the launch of the award for women novelists

The Orange Prize for Fiction offers £30,000 for the best English-language novel of the year written by a woman, £10,000 more than the Booker Prize and £9,000 more than the Whitbread Book of the Year. It is

JOJO MOYES and HEATHER MILLS

A jury vesterday returned a ver-

dict of unlawful killing at the in-

quest into the death of an

asylum seeker who died while

in the custody of Stoke New-

Nigerian, died of asphydiation in December 1994 shortly after

he was involved in a struggle

with officers who were at-

Shiji Lapite, a 34-year-old

aiming for the same literary high ground as the Booker, intending to "celebrate excellence. originality and accessibility". Women of all nationalities are eligible and the five judges will all be female.

Kate Mosse, the novelist who chairs the judges, said the prize had partly been sparked by the Booker Prize's 1991 shortlist when all six authors - including Martin Amis, Ben Okri and Roddy Doyle - were men. "It wasn't complaining,

Nigerian killed

unlawfully by

police, jury says

lice custody - was swift and

It has triggered fresh con-

troversy about the use of neck

holds by police when controlling

suspects. Coroner Dr Stephen

Chan called upon the Associa-tion of Chief Police Officers to

"ensure that all police officers are left in no doubt of the haz-

ards and danger of this prac-

Coles, co-director of Inquest,

After the verdict, Deborah

stamping our feet and saying This isn't fair. But whether from taste, tradition or expectation most women don't find their way onto shortlists and even fewer actually win," she

The Booker, which is open to Commonwealth writers, has shortlisted 153 writers since 1969. Of those, 57 have been women. In the same period it has had 29 winners, of whom 10 were women.

"Just imagine what people

During what officers Paul Wright and Andrew McCal-

lum described as "a violent

struggle", PC Wright, 28, told

the court that Lapite had at-

tempted to strangle him, al-

though a Home Office pathologist said that "serious

doubt must be thrown on the al-

legation" because of the lack of

marks around the officer's neck, Mr Lapite, who PC McCal-

lum admitted kicking twice in the head "as hard as he could",

shortlist with only women. ner since 1985 - Joan Brady for Everyone would see it as an Theory of War. enormous political statement. Ms Mosse said.

She acknowledged that in the last two months both the Booker and the Whitbread had chosen female winners - Pat Borker for The Ghost Road and Kate Atkinson this week for Behind the Scenes at the Museum.

"But that is very, very rare. It has never happened before," she added. Whitbread has had

The crucial question for the founders of the Orange Prize is whether the best women writers will want to associate themselves with an award arguably tainted by the "lame-duck"

Eighteen months ago the late Sir Kingsley Amis helped derail its original launch when he said disdainfully: "If I were a woman, I would not want to

would say if Booker released a only one previous female win- win this prize. One can hardly take the winner of this serious-

> The then sponsors, Mitsubishi, pulled out and have been replaced by Orange, the mobile phone company. Yesterday A S Byatt, the

she would wish to enter. "I am against anything which ghet-toises women. That is my deepest feminist emotion," she said.

"I think these women judges

1990 winner of the Booker for

Possession, was unsure whether

should be asked in each year of the Booker which women had written a very important book that should have been shortlisted. My opinion is for the last 10 years or so it is observable that there have not been as many good women writers as

The first Orange Prize will be awarded on 15 May. Novels published in the UK between 1 April last year and 31 March this year are eligible; entries will be submitted by publishers.

a million people for 24 hours in every 48. The inquiry report, just pub-lished after being sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment, John Gummer, says A force under fire: Day of shame for Scotland Yard as inquest finding adds to woe over damages defeat through September and Octo-

her it acted as if it was dealing with a minor drought. In the end some winter rainfall led to Yorkshire Water withdrawing its application. Mr Nixon recommended the emergency order should have been granted, with strict conditions.

Gascoigne charged

An Italian judge ordered English soccer international Paul Gascoigne to stand trial on 2 charge of assaulting a photographer during a scuffle in Rome in January 1994, where he played for Lazio, judicial sources said. The trial will take place next October.

MPs' pay claim

Over 100 staff of the House of Commons earn more than an MP's salary, it was revealed. There are 50 clerks, 10 librarians and 19 editors of Hansard, the official report of the House's proceedings, who earn more than the basic £33,189 salary for MPs, a parliamentary answer confirmed.

Suicide blood link

Dutch scientists have explained a link between low cholesterol levels and the high risk of violent death and suicide, says a re-port in the British Medical Journal, Blood samples from more than 30,000 men showed those with low cholesterol levels also had low levels of serotonin, known to occur in depressed and suicidal people.

Strike peace offer

A peace formula is to be put to a postal ballot of sacked Liverpool dockers in an attempt to end a four month conflict which has cost the Mersey docks com-pany £4m. The 329 port workers, who were dismissed for refusing to cross picket lines. have been offered compensation of up to £25,000.

Dead baby case

The fate of a British woman new born baby was set to decided late yesterday in a New York court. Caroline Beale. 30. from Levtonstone, east London. was arrested 16 months ago at the city's Kennedy airport carrying the dead baby girl under her coat. Prosecutors say desoite her "delicate mental condition" she will face trial unless she agrees a plea bargain.

Lord Eliot - Apology On 22 December 1995 The Independent carried an erroneous report of the arrest of Lord Jago Eliot for possession of cannabis plants at his Cornish home. We wrongly stated that £30,000-worth of cannabis. including cannabis chocolates had been found there, when this bad in fact been seized in unconnected raids in the area on the same day. We apologise unreservedly to Lord Jago Eliot for our error and for any distress

or embarrassment caused.

joy that turned to terror

Shiji Lapite had plenty of cause to celebrate on 15 December 1994, writes Jojo Moyes. The Nigerian father-of-two who had lived in Britain uneventfully for three years had that day been given leave to stay, pending consideration of his claim for

Ten minutes later, according

ly friend yesterday.

were even using the same words: 'the most violent woman

I've ever come across'."

"He didn'i take drugs," says had been staying shortly before

Lapite sustained 45 injuries

ficers, from Stoke Newington police station, Lapite, had "pretended to be unconscious" When the officers realised that Lapite's condition had deteriorated, he was taken to nearby

He was last seen shortly before midnight after popping in to his favourite restaurant in north-east London, where he bought drinks for his friends.

to police reports, Lapite had become "the most violent man l have ever come across"; a man whose extreme strength and aggressiveness, they said, suggested the use of crack cocaine. He had also grown three inches, to 6ft 1, instead of the 5ft 10 recorded by a Home Office pathologist.
"The police tried to paint a

picture of him as a violent. drug-crazed drunk who was out of control and that was a tactic which really backfired on them," said Ken Fero, a fami-

They used that when they described Joy Gardner. They

His friends and family say he was a "deeply religious" man. They are at a loss to explain the 41g of crack cocaine which was apparently placed by a tree by Lapite shortly before his arrest.

during his arrest. One witness described how he had heard terrible screams, like someone was being hurt", before he saw Lapite being carried into a po-According to the arresting of-

Homerton Hospital where he was pronounced dead.
"We still feel there's a lot more

that needs to be revealed about what happened and what's happening in Stoke Newington in general," said Mr Fero.

tempting to arrest him on sus-picion of possessing drugs. The verdict came at the end which helps the families of was placed in a neck hold during the struggle and eventually those who die in custody, said the verdict was an indictment of overpowered. He was found to of a bad day for the Metropolhave sustained a fracture to his Previous deaths have revoice box, the cause of death beitan Police's reputation. In one court, the force paid out over sulted from neck holds and yet ing recorded as "asphyxiation, they haven't been banned and with a contributory cause of co-£90,000 in costs and damages to a teacher, trainee solicitor and therefore, there will remain a caine intoxication". doubt about the accountability Neither officer was able to exaward-winning photographer who claimed they had been asof the police," she said. plain what Dr Chan described saulted, falsely imprisoned and Olumide Susan Jones, Mr as the "gross disparity" of in-Lapite's wife, described the maliciously prosecuted by offijuries sustained by Lapite and hearing as "traumatic". She cers - one of whom had applied a neck hold. In another, a foradded: "I'm relieved that my Yesterday as the Crown Proschildren are going to grow up to learn that their father was unmer officer with 24 years service ecution Service said it would rewas convicted of jury nobbling. consider its earlier decision not lawfully killed by the police." Meanwhile in the Commons. to prosecute any of the officers the Public Accounts Committee The inquest, at St Pancras involved in Lapite's death, Scotlambasted Scotland Yard for Coroners Court, north Lonland Yard said the two officers failing to notice that its its acdon, heard that Mr Lapite, remained suspended. A spokesman said that it countant Anthony Williams. who had two children, had been

Jobless gardener walks

160 miles to interview

and stressing that they should

only be used in exceptional cir-

cumstances and officers would

have to justify that it was a "rea-

about the lack of thorough

training and instruction in the

use of control and restraint

generally. In November, an in-

quest jury again returned a ver-dict of "unlawful killing" against the Metropolitan Police in the

case of Richard O'Brien, who

died after a struggle with police.

But there remain concerns

sonable" use of force.

Warnings about neck holds failed to prevent death

Home Affairs Correspondent

Senior police officers have long recognised neck holds were dangerous to the point of being lethal - but have always fallen short of a total ban on their use.

had stolen £5m from police

The Lapite verdict - the sec-

ond unlawful killing verdict in

When Shiji Lapite was ar-rested in December 1993. official guidance stated that strangleholds should be used only as a last resort.

Those guidelines were issued by chief police officers fullowing an inquiry and inquest into the death of Oliver Pryce, were brought. However, last

CHRIS BLACKHURST

In one of the most bizarre Gov-

ernment sell-offs, the buildings

management arm of the Prop-erty Services Agency was sold for £10.4m, but the taxpayer was

left holding a bill for £280m in

dit Office, the public finance watchdog, issued today, lays

bare the details of the scheme.

In 1993, the five regional

branches that comprised the

PSA's building management di-

vision were bought by four sep-

arate businesses.

A study by the National Au-

another 30-year-old black man. Mr Pryce, suffering a mental breakdown, had hurled himself into the path of a slow-moving

stopped for "acting suspicious-

shortly before midnight on De-

cember 15 1994 by two plain

in Clapton, east London,

Police called to the scene grabbed him in a neck lock, bundled him face down into the back of a van and drove him to a police station. On arrival, he was found to have stopped

breathing. As in Mr Lapite's case, the inquest jury decided Mr Pryce had been "unlawfully killed" - but no charges or disciplinary action

Government sell-off left

taxpayers a £280m bill

£10.4m, although the buyers of three of the five - North-East, South-East and South-West -

were allowed to delay payment

for up to five years, while the purchaser of BM Manchester

was in effect paid £11.5m to take it off Government hands.

To pave the way for the sale,

the total workforce was re-

duced from 15.000 in April

1990 to 6,700 in September

1993. Job cuts before the sale

cost £135.3m. The Government

also agreed to pick up the bill

for redundancies after the sale,

costing £146.4m, making a

As part of the deal, PSA fur-

grand total of £281.7m.

Total net proceeds were ther guaranteed redundancy and Young.

admission of liability - did pay undisclosed but "substantial"

would also be sending a dossier

to the Police Complaints Au-

thority to see if any disciplinary

action should follow.

damages to Mr Pryce's family. And there have been others who have died following the application of head or neck holds. Clinton McCurbin died in Wolverhampton in 1987, James Davey in Littlepark police station, Coventry, in 1983. Winston Rose and Nicholas Ofusu, both mentally ill black men, died in police stations, in 1981 and 1983, after inhaling their own vomit and John Lamaletie died

of a stroke, nine days after he

went bust within five years of the sale and staff who moved

across, lost their jobs. This could

lead to a bill for an extra £51m

clear figures on the cost of

closing the division, rather than selling it off. The NAO said it

was unable to conclude whether

it made more economic sense

to shut the five branches down.

for the taxpayer, the privatisa-

tion cost £14m, the bulk of

which went to City accoun-

tants. Coopers & Lybrand,

KPMG Peat Marwick and Ernst

Despite raising just £10.4m

The DoE was unable to give

for the public purse.

year, Cleveland police - in a rare had been held in a lock which admission of liability - did pay caused a blood clot in an artery

leading to his brain. Neck locks can cause death in seconds, by obstructing the flow of blood to or from the hrain or by triggering a reflex action in the carotid artery which can cause sudden cardiac arrest. Professor Bernard Knight, a

consultant Home Office pathologist, says they should be used only in truly life-threatening sit-uations: "They are dangerous holds that can never be con-trolled in a struggle," he told the Independent.

A jobless gardener who walked

160 miles for an interview be-

cause his JobCentre would not

pay the coach fare will have to

wait a further two weeks to hear

if his marathon trek has paid off.

emerged from his interview at

a recruitment agency still bitter

that he had been forced into the

five-day march to try to land the

that his JobCentre was unable to to pay the £18.50 return fare

under the Travel to Interview

Scheme because the job work-

ing as a gardener abroad was for

Government policy dictates

six-month contract.

less than a year.

Chris Owen, 26, yesterday

IAN MacKINNON

known to use them. The Lapite inquest jury heard that PC Paul Wright, who had held Lapite in the neck lock, had previously served in the Army, According to one senior officer, others have used them "instinctively" when in violent struggles. Following Mr Lapite's death.

women have not been trained.

in recent years, to use neck

holds, but those skilled in mar-

tial arts or those who have

served in the military have been

the Association of Chief Police Officers issued new guidance to

tential employer, refused to disclose the name of the com-

pany that is recruiting garden-

ers to work in Italy. Greece,

Last night he and his friend

Richard Morgan, 31, who had

accompanied him, were making

their way back to Cwmbran,

Gwent, courtesy of British Rail.

Eric Forth, the Employment
minister, said: "If someone
wants to dramatise his position

by doing [that], that is entirely

a matter for him." Labour's em-

ployment spokesman, Michael

Meacher, said it was "absolutely absurd" that the JobCentre

had refused to pay the farc.

Corsica, Sardinia and Italy.

Tory candidate backed Karadzic

JOHN RENTOUL Mr Owen, concerned thatmedia attention would deter his po-Political Correspondent

In fact, policemen and all forces, warning of the dan-omen have not been trained, gers of neck and strangleholds

Labour vesterday demanded that the Prime Minister repudiate John Kennedy, a Tory parliamentary candidate who has defended a Bosnian Serb leader

accused of war crimes. Mr Kennedy, originally John Gvozdenovic, has spoken on television seeking to explain the actions of Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader wanted by the United Nations war crimes tribunal on charges of genocide for ethnic

More recently. Mr Kennedy. without naming Mr Karadzic, said that anyone against whom there is evidence must answer

charges.
Calum Macdonald, a Labour
MP interested in Bosnia, said: Karadzic has the blood of thousands of innocent civilians on his hands. It is an absolute disgrace that an apologist for an indicted war criminal should be selected as a Tory candidate. I shall be writing to the Prime Minister today calling upon him to dissociate himself from

the views of Mr Kennedy."
Mr Kennedy, who has denied being an apologist for Mr Karadzic, was selected eight weeks ago as the Conservative candidate for Halesowen and Rowley Regis, a new marginal seat in the West Midlands.

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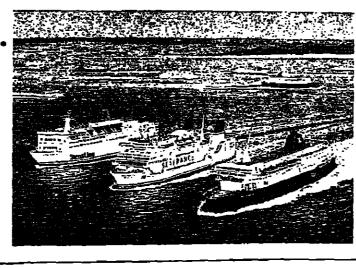
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DOVER/CALAIS OVER 140 CROSSINGS DAILY O EUROPEAN FERRIES, STENA LINE, SEAFRANCE & HOVERSPEED.

Law Society hit by fresh split over fees

The Law Society was damaged by further splits yesterday over plans to hike conveyancing fees, and tabloid coverage of the personal life of the president, Martin Mears, writes Stephen

Mr Mears' pledge to stamp out cut-price conveyancing and boost solicitors' incomes was one of his key promises when he was voted in last year in the first contested election for 40 years. But yesterday the Law Socicty was given counsel's opin-

ion that almost all the ways Mr Mears and his deputy. Robert Sayers, planned to try to impose minimum fees would be unlawful price-fixing.
Their only remaining possi-

bility is a scheme to refuse insurance cover to solicitors who charge low fees, but they conceded at a meeting of the Society's ruling council that they would have to delay while they appointed independent experts to try to establish that cheap solicitors made more claims.

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Calais port provides an open door to the entire

European motorway network.

Ernie cuts back on Premium Bond winners

NIC CICUTTI and REBECCA FOWLER

Ernie, the computer genius whose whirrings have sent fris-sons through generations of Premium Bond holders, has suddenly turned mean.

His masters at National Savings, who have been paying out an average of 390,000 prizes a month, announced vesterday that they will be cutting that number down to 350,000.

and other prizes down to £500 in each monthly draw. A will remain and in some cases spokeswoman said: "We found be boosted, reflecting the National Lottery's big-money ap-peal among the public, the chances of winning £100 or £50 will drop significantly. National Savings said yes-

terday that its decision to cut the number of small prizes was prompted by the need to bring down the amount paid out each month. From May onwards Although the £1m jackpot payouts will decline from 5.2 per cent to 4.75 per cent of all Bonds

that although people still wanted to be in with a chance to win big prizes each month, they were less worried about the £50 or £100 ones. I suppose attitudes towards big wins are similar to the National Lottery, except that in our case the top prize is

still far smaller."
For those who like to calculate the odds on every bet, the chances of winning a Premium

to 1 compared with better than last double rollover earlier this tery, said the apparent decline 15,000 to 1 at present. The month, when three winners in enthusiasm for talking about 15,000 to 1 at present. The chances of winning the £1m jackpot remain at 58 million to one, compared to odds of 14 million to one against scooping the National Lottery. However, that has not put off punters. Queues for tickets for this week's rollover jackpot, expected more than £40m, are

breaking all records.
But the lottery is no longer the frenzied conversation on every lip in the nation, since the

shared £42.5m. Despite the lack of mania surrounded the latest double rollover, ticket sales are still expected to exceed all previous records. They are already up by 150 per cent on normal

Almost every adult in Britain is expected to have a flutter this weekend, but Leslie Reid, emeritus professor of psychology at Exeter University who has studied the effects of the lotthe lottery was typical.

What the lottery depends on is that while not everyone gets a reward, there is a vicarious sense if people you know have won. This is why the lottery people are so keen to display win-ners. They are also anxious to tell you it's great fun, but there isn't really any great sense that people are having fun at all." The lack of faith that people

limit. Six players have failed to claim prizes ranging from £94,000 to £146,000. One winner who bought his winning ticket in Oldham, Greater Manchester, last summer has only another two weeks to cash in his £94,239 ticket.

is supported by the number of unclaimed prizes. More than £20m is unclaimed, and a fur-

ther £26.2m has already been

added to the good causes fund

from prizes that were not

claimed with the 180-days time

The five other big unclaimed prizes are: £146,245 - the ticket was bought in the Torquay area for the 30 September draw, last date for claim is 20 March; £109,892 – ticket bought in the Liverpool area for 16 December, claim deadline is 5 June: £102,262 - ticket bought in the Cardiff area for 23 September draw, ticket must be redeemed by 13 March: and £104,746 ~ two tickets bought for the 6 January double rollover draw, deadline runs out on 27 June

Turkey embraces English girl-bride

HUGH POPE Kahramanmaras and STEVE BOGGAN

A groundswell of popular indignation swept Turkey yesterday over attempts by the High Court in Britain to bring the 13-year-old bride, Sarah Cook,

The schoolgirl from Braintree, Essex, is fast becoming a religious and cultural cause celebre in her adoptive country as anger grows over the continued imprisonment of her Turkish husband on statutory

rape charges.
Hopes that Sarah would return to England "forthwith", as Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division of the High Court, ordered on Wednesday, appeared to be in vain when her husband, Musa Komeagac, 18, was remanded in custody until 15 February.

Suit 28 1 123

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He is being held on statutory rape and abduction charges in Kahramanmaras, south-eastern Turkey, which Sarah has made her home since marrying him two weeks ago.

Opinion in the town and in the country's media is undivided: the couple should be left alone. Outside the court yesterday a man shouted to applause: "You meddling English. We will make you accept that Sarah is ours. For us, marrying at this age is absolutely normal."



Aslan Yildirim, said: "As much as the British courts say they are looking after Sarah's interests, we will look after them here. They are not officially married, but it is considered a marriage according to our customs."

Mr Yildirim was backed by the town mayor. Ali Sezal vowed that he would himself legally marry Sarah and Musa when she turns 14 on 2 September, and would give a job to Musa, who is unemployed.

The chief prosecutor said he would make a decision about an application by lawyers to include Sarah's mother, Jackie, in the suit along with Musa. Ali, Musa's father, and a man who performed the illegal wedding ceremony are named in the in-The provincial governor, dictment. Normally, girls under didn't specify a date."

15 cannot marry in Turkey. The Turkish press has united behind the couple. Feminist commentators have praised her defiant statements of love, while Islamist newsheets have trumpeted that the case shows the superiority of Islamic Sharia law.

The order making Sarah a ward of court is not binding in Turkey and, according to the Lord Chancellor's department, there are no legal moves designed to persuade the Turkish courts to comply with it.

Nor is the apparent failure by Sarah's mother to bring her daughter home likely to trouble the High Court. "The judge used the word 'forthwith', and that doesn't really have a defi-



Reunion kiss: Thirteen-year-old Sarah Cook is reunited with her mother Jackie in Turkey, and (above left) on her

'If she goes, Musa's youth will be snuffed out' The wedding benna still stained the palms and fingernails of 13-year-old Sarah Cook as she Hugh Pope went to meet Jackie Cook and her daughter's new 'family' in Kahramanmaras tacks from neighbours. Abusive callers had even reached Sarah

reached out to bold the hand of ber mother, Jackie. Her head nuzzled into the neck of her new Turkish "mother-in-law", to

whom she gave a loving kiss. The three sat side-by-side on a bed in a typically Turkish family scene in the eastern town of Kahramanmaras, But all were exhausted by a second sleepless night, caught up in the storm caused by Sarah's underage "marriage" to her holiday sweetheart, 18-year-old

It was after 2am, and a Turkish friend had brought me to the unpainted three-storey concrete building where they are staying in this busy market flown in from London. Newly pressed into her handbag was

to bring her daughter back, within two weeks, or else. I was there to translate for them from Turkish, but it soon struck me that the Cook family were in need of much more help than that.

a writ, in intimidating legal lan-

guage, apparently ordering her

They listened with little comment to the views of a local lawyer, retained by the Komeagac family, Selim Surmen. Over and over again Mr Surmen pushed the same message as he has given in public: his view -Sarah returns to Britain, then Musa, who was remanded in have warned them not to speak atives occasionally offered much concern for what might

custody on charges of underage sex earlier this week, will spend the next six years in iail.

"If she goes, then Musa's youth will be snuffed out. She must stay here for the eight months until she turns 14. Then we can get the judge's permission for her to marry, Musa will get out of jail and everybody will live happily ever after," Mr Surmen said in an interview

The terrible dilemma of their situation could be read on the tired faces of Mrs Cook and her daughter, who appear not to have known that the "marpossibly inaccurate - that if riage" two weeks ago was ille-

publicly about their case, but behind their formal "no comments" it seemed clear they had little idea what was best to do and they had nobody to give them impartial advice. Representatives of the Sun, who had hitherto assumed the role of guards and guides, were sud-

denly absent. Their problem is likely to grow worse as the officials and people of Kahramanmaras adopt Sarah's love for, and "marriage" to, Musa as a cam-

Sarah's "in-laws" listened supportively as the debate law, who responded with pupmoved backwards and forwards. gal in Turkey. British officials They and a group of young rel-

Sarah chunks of bread, cheese and olives from the family's predawn meal. It is Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting between sunrise and sunset.

Her "father-in-law", Ali, is a slight man with kind, quick eyes who has done well out of 15 years as the caretaker of a downtown Kahramanmaras apartment block, earning enough to buy a flat or two, a shop and a car. Her "motherin-law", Esma, has a gentle, smiling face and often showed her affection by hugging and stroking her new "daughter-in-

py-like charm. The "in-laws" showed as

happen to Sarah's parents in Britain as what might happen to their son, but they spoke bare-ly three words of English be-

still elementary. Sarah, her pale face puffed up with lack of sleep, was by turns attentive and humorous in a schoolgirlish way, then unable to remember the name of the British Embassy official who had come to discuss her legal position, let alone the substance of what she was told.

tween them. Sarah's Turkish is

After two hours, there seemed to be no way forward and no way back for the Cooks. The mother's face was dark and lined after her long flight, the legal sanctions and the verbal at-

Conversation continued fitfully into the night. Finally, a message was produced from Musa in jail, that spoke of his love for Sarah, how everyone should think of her first but that "he did not know what he would do" if Sarah decided to obey the court and leave.

Sarah fled the room in tears, apparently believing that this meant Musa would kill himself. The room fell quiet. A canary warbled in a cage hanging from the stove pipe, and from the cold earth tracks outside came the booming beat of the Ramadan drummers, waking up the townspeople for a new day of fasting and avid debate about their adopted "bride".

Free Hospital in north-west

London which studied 17 HIV-

positive and 17-HIV negative

male haemophiliacs, who had all

received similar, large quanti-

ties of factor 8 over time, found

that the infected group suf-

fered from Aids-related ill-

nesses, such as pneumonia,

Briton to create Holocaust memorial

REBECCA FOWLER

Rachel Whiteread, the controversial British sculptor, has been chosen to create a memorial to Austria's 65,000 Holocaust victims. Her design, an enormous cement library, will be the first monument erected in the centre of Vienna in memory of those who died.

Ms Whiteread's sculpture will consist of a giant cast of a real library room measuring 4 metres by 7 by 10. The work, which will be paid for by the City of Vienna, will be erected in Judenplatz, the heart of the old Jewish quarter and the home of many families who did not escape the Holocaust.

In Austria alone 65 synagogues were torched and end-less homes and shops owned by Jews were destroyed on the Reichkristallnacht, the night the Nazis ushered in their vioient persecution of the Jews. The monument will be unveiled on the anniversary of that night, in November.

Ms Whiteread, an enfant terrible of the British art world most famous for her provocative life-size sculpture of a house which won the Turner prize, was chosen from 10 artists invited to submit a proposal in a closed competition.

Hans Holbein, an Austrian architect who headed the jury which selected the design, said: "It symbolises that Judaism has survived through thousands of years of persecution, especially through books and writing."

The Jewish community has welcomed the £600,000 sculp ture, which many say is symbolic of a change in attitude in Austria. "This is the city that was the capital of anti-semitism, and it has taken a long time to come to terms with it," said George Clare, a writer and an Austrian-

born Jew. "There is a shift and Austrians' attitudes have definitely changed. There is hope now, because people have changed. If she is a good artist and she does something sensible, I fully support this."

According to art experts in Britain, Ms Whiteread, who is not Jewish, is an ideal choice for the honour.

Simon Wilson, curator at the Tate Gallery in London said: "She is a deeply admired artist who uses these everyday objects, but makes them very redolent of human life. She is an utterly brilliant choice for a Holocaust memorial in that a lot of

her work is about death." The monument will be the first in the city that is dedicated specifically to the Austrian Jews killed in the Holocaust.

The international competition to find an artist was set up by Simon Wiesenthal, 87, who has dedicated his life to exposing war crimes. He was joined on the jury by prominent Jews including Lord Weidenfeld, Robert Storr, curator of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and Amnon Barzel of the Jewish Museum, Berlin.

Aids vaccine hope as HIV children 'tolerate' infection

LIZ HUNT Health Editor

Almost three per cent of babies born HIV-positive will subsequently "clear" or "tolerate" the virus in later childhood and may be declared virus free, according to a study which will help vaccine development against

The study follows several reports from around the world of infected at birth, but who then appeared to rid their bodies of the virus in childhood.

Nine children out of 264 in the on-going European Collaborative Study of mothers and children, tested positive at or around birth and then negative for HIV at a later date. There was no HIV in the blood of seven of the children and they

remained healthy.
Two other children tested children born to HIV-positive antibody negative but the virus mothers, who were found to be could still be detected in their

mained well and doctors believe their immune systems could have "contained" the virus, and developed a tolerance to it so they no longer produced anti-

Writing in tomorrow's issue of The Lancet, Dr Marie-Louise Newall and her team from the Institute of Child Health in London, say: "If we could understand how virus-positive children subsequently become

virus clearance. These mechanisms may have implications for vaccine development . . . it is important to continue the clinical and virological monitoring of these children. Current paediatric opinion is to inform parents of these children that their

child is not infected with HIV." The British Medical Journal also reports that British doctors have further strong evidence for HIV as a cause of Aids, refutsenger virus in the human body.

They found that a group of HIV-infected haemophiliac men developed Aids-related illnesses and had extensive damage to their immune systems while HIV-negative haemophiliacs did not.

The findings reject the view of some scientists, lead by Dr Peter Duesberg, an eminent American researcher, who argue that factors other than

blood using more sophisticated uninfected, we might gain intests. However, they too resight into the mechanism of entists that it is a harmless pasdrug use or promiscuity, are responsible for Aids. Dr Duesberg's explanation

for the high incidence of Aids among haemophiliacs, which received worldwide attention after extensive publicity in the Sunday Times, is not that they received blood products contaminated with HIV, but that factor 8, the essential clotting agent needed by these patients. is itself a cause of the disease. But a team from the Royal

thrush infections, tomegalovirus, while the uninfected group failed to develop any of these. The HIV-positive group also had substantially lower white blood cell counts.

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Primary school tests: Shephard accepts results 'not good enough' as Labour attacks 'absolute disaster' for future of Britain

Targets for the three Rs defeat most 11-year-olds

DOUL HUDDI Education Editor

More than half of 11-year-olds failed to reach Government targets in the first national tests for the age group, results published yesterday show.

The figures throw doubt on school standards for 7- to 11year-olds. Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Edu-cation, said: "It is not good

Labour used the results to regain some of the ground lost on education over Harriet Harman's decision to send her son to a selective school. Tony Blair. the Labour leader, said the results were "an absolute disaster for the future of this country" which showed the necessity for a change of education policy.

He clashed with the Prime where he blamed the results on

17 years of Tory rule. John Major accepted the results were disappointing but pointed out that Mr Blair had voted against the introduction of national tests for 7-, 11- and 14-year-olds.

"If it is the Conservative Government that has failed, perhaps you can explain why some of your friends remove their children from Labour education authorities and have them educated under Conservative ones," he said.

Mrs Shephard blamed the overloaded curriculum and pointed out that it will be slimmed down to concentrate on literacy and numeracy from September. Standards would improve, she suggested, as schools got used to the tests.

Teachers said next year's results would be better because schools would spend hours coaching their pupils and revising. Today's 11-year-olds

results for the 600,000 11-yearolds showed that 52 per cent failed to reach the expected standard in English and 56 per cent failed to do so in maths. In science 70 per cent reached the required standard.

National tests were taken last spring and summer by two million seven, 11 and 14-yearolds. Results for seven-year-olds were better with more than three-quarters reaching or exceeding expected standards in English, maths and science. Just over half 14-year-olds reached or exceeded expected standards in the three areas. Mrs Shephard said: "These

tests and the fact 90 per cent of our 7-, 11- and 14-year-olds took the tests for the first time are a very important part of our standards strategy in schools."

Professor Michael Barber,

dean of London University's In-

are not used to formal tests. The stitute of Education, said: "We do have reason to be very worried about standards of literacy and numeracy. This isn't teacher-bashing. As a society we expect too little of children at the age of 11. International comparisons bear this out."

Anne Barnes, general secretary of the National Association for the Teaching of English, said: Teachers will be very depressed by both Mr Blair and Mrs Shephard. You will get big improvements next year because of a very narrow focus on teaching to the test. It will not raise

Peter Smith, general secretary of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers, said: "The Government must accept that overcrowded primary classes, lack of resources and a nine-subject



Testing times: The roof is leaking and staff are in short supply at Priory Middle School

'Crude, clumsy and a dire misuse of cash'

CLARE GARNER

Most pupils at Priory Middle School passed last summer's tests for 11-year-olds with flying colours. In their book, it was the politicians who failed.

One by one, they reiterated the concerns of Roger Pep-worth, head teacher at the 530strong mixed comprehensive in Dunstable, Bedfordshire. Everyone agreed that the tests were "crude", "clumsy", and "a mere snapshot" - inaccurate at that - of children's ability.

"I'm strapped for cash, I'm strapped for staff, and I've got buckets in the corridors because the roof is leaking. The money spent on SATs is a dire misuse of cash. I could use the money a lot better on teachers, resources, and buildings," said Mr Pepworth yesterday.

They are crude, they are inaccurate, they are limited in what they assess. They've got more to do with politicians than the children's needs. I think they are a distraction from the planned and progres-

Despite the school's policy of playing down the significance of the tests, all the children complained that they felt under undue pressure to perform well. Helen Ashton, 11, said: "I found that when I revised I got more and more nervous because I knew the results go on to your upper school. They say they reflect your ability, but that's not true. You might have been having a bad day because you are right."

Politicians are not popular among staff and pupils at **Priory School**

under a lot of stress. They

make you feel uptight. Indeed many pupils feel the tests are unfair and that it would make more sense for their teachers to set and mark them. Helen Ashton added: "Teachers in our school might not have taught what teachers in other schools have taught. They should test us on what we

have been taught. Helen was just one of many pupils to complain that her marks did not reflect important qualities such as attitude, effort, values, character and social skills.Furthermore, both teachers and pupils mistrust the

"The quality of marking for the English tests was just lamentable. The children could have marked the tests with more accuracy," said Mr Pepworth, who complained to Gillian Shephard that his pupils scores were not too low, but too high. Spellings like "gingerlly", "saticfied", "centurey", and "ucording" were marked down as correct. When re-marked. only 18 of the 132 papers had no alteration to the final mark. It makes 12-year-old Mark Crane angry with the Govern-

Arts 'cannot survive a year of further cuts'

JOHN McKIE

Leading Arts Council executives yesterday warned of "major and painful" closures of artistic venues if there are further cuts in government funding for the arts.

The warning came as the Arts Council of England announced its allocation of grants for 1996-97. Many theatres, galleries, orchestras and dance companies had feared the worst last November when the Gov-. ernment announced a cut of £5m in the Arts Council's annual budget of £191m.

However, yesterday its chair-man, Lord Gowrie, said that a re-apportionment of the Arts Council's and Regional Arts Boards' overhead costs of £4.3m for dealing with appli-cations for National Lottery funding, and a further £1m from Arts Council contingency funds, had been released to off-

set the cut in funding.

But he warned that this could not be repeated and that closures were inevitable if the Government's threat to cut f3.2m from the 1997-98 budget is followed through.

Mary Allen, the Arts Coun-cil's chief executive, said: "The arts can't survive a year of further cuts and there will be inevitable closures if there are further cuts. If cuts are on a scale as predicted by the Government those closures will be major and painful.

She added that the re-apportionment of funds this year

was a one-off gesture: "All the rabbits have been pulled out of the hat."

The Arts Council announced a standstill – or freeze – on funding to most of the 170 organi-sations and all 10 Regional Arts Boards it supports in Eng-

This standstill is the same as the devolved systems of Arts Council funding operating in Scotland and Wales. The English standstill - for most companies the fourth in succession represents a cut in real terms of 2 to 3 per cent because of inflatiou.

The Arts Council also handed out one-off grants of £100,000 to Dance House Network, a new organisation aiding dance development in London, and £150,000 to the troubled Donmar Warehouse theatre in Covent Garden, central London, which was on the brink of financial ruin.

move or

The Museum of Modern Art in Oxford also received a grant of £29,000, while the English Touring Opera was given £75,000 to avoid an expected cut of 50 per cent of its annual productions.

Lord Gowrie also praised

the National Lottery as "the best thing that has happened to the arts in our lifetimes". He: welcomed the announcement by Virginia Bottomley, Secretary of ... State for National Heritage; earlier this week that National Lottery money would be made available for funding new talent in sport and the arts.

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Ashdown shrugs off danger of Scargill

JAMES CUSICK

Paddy Ashdown yesterday branded Arthur Scargill and his new political party, which has its first outing in next Thursday's Hemsworth by-election, as a "dangerous irrelevance".

The Liberal Democrat leader was the first of the main party leaders to visit the West Yorkshire constituency. The ultra-

leaves the Liberal Democrats and the Tories to scrap over second place. However, the equation is complicated by the debut of Mr Scargill's Socialist Labour Party, whose candidate is Brenda Nixon, a miner's wife who established her credentials in the

pit closure support groups.
Although Mr Ashdown insisted the SLP was an irrelevance, he nevertheless appeared

view that Tony Blair's New dent in its 22,000 majority. At that members cannot belong to Labour may not enjoy the lev- the last three elections, it has els of support in Yorkshire that it has in the south of England.

Mr Ashdown said Mr Blair's "southern voice" had "no resonance with the fears and wishes of people here", and he de-scribed the area as having been neglected by the Tories and taken for granted by Labour".

Before Mrs Nixon entered safe Labour seat traditionally partially to accept Mr Scargill's the contest, Labour expected no port of the hard left by insisting

scored around 65 per cent. Publicly, Labour is saying that Mrs Nixon will lose her deposit. but a party source admitted that if the SLP cannot do well in

it "cannot succeed anywhere". Although the SLP's constitution effectively shuns the sup-

Hemsworth - a former mining

area south-east of Wakefield -

other political groups, both Socialist Workers Party and Militant activists have been helping it campaign. Their participation is confined to the delivery of leaflets, however, and they have been forbidden to discuss issues with voters or distribute their own literature.

Mrs Nixon promised: "The result next Thursday will not be a disappointment.

Divorced wives set for share of pension funds

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES Political Correspondent

Divorced women will be entitled to their own shares of their ex-husbands' pensions under a radical change to the law sig-

nalled last night by Lord Mack-ay, the Lord Chancellor. Lord Mackay pledged he would "consider sympathetically" amendments to the Family Law Bill from Labour's Baroness Hollis to introduce so-called "pension splitting".

Following strong support from all sides during yesterday's Lords' committee stage discussion, most peers believe amendments to implement the reform will be brought back at the re-

port stage.

The change would enable couples to split the capital represented by the pension at the time they divorce instead of their financial affairs being "entangled for years", Baroness Hollis said.

The signal from Lord Mackay represents a climbdown from earlier government resistance. Under a limited change forced on the Government by opposition peers and rebel Tories during last year's Pensions Bill, a divorcée receiving a share of her former hus-

band's pension gets only an or-

der for "deferred maintenance"

left ex-wives at risk of receiving nothing from a pension fund if their former husbands died before retirement age. Where ex-husbands died later, former wives could be forced on to income support when in their seventies.

able to start their own new pensions or add to their entitlements with additional voluntary contributions, ending the un-certainty of waiting until their former spouses chose to retire.

In the case of unfunded Civil Service pensions, the divorced spouses would have to build on their entitlement within the scheme to prevent a dramatic outflow of capital.

Despite support from the National Association of Pension Funds, the Institute of Actuaries, the Law Society and the Mothers' Union, the Government had opposed the change on financial grounds, insisting that there would be a £300m tax loss because each former spouse would claim a personal allowance.

But parliamentary answers from the Treasury to Lady Hollis and the Labour MP Harry Cohen showed that in 2020 the tax loss would be £80m, and that would be offset by £70m worth of savings on income support

Lady Hollis told peers that the current system was a "gamble" that still left former wives "traded in for a younger model" dependent on their husbands. "If he retires early she has less income. If he retires later she has to wait longer for it. Under the expected amend-ments, divorced spouses will be nothing and when eventually after retirement he does die, she

will get nothing, she said. Baroness O'Cathain, a Tory peer, backed Lady Hollis and said that splitting the pension at the time of divorce would reduce the problem of keeping track of the pension beneficiary and his or her spouse for anything up to 35 years.

The former Law Lord Lord Simon of Glaisdale, despite being an ardent opponent of both divorce and the current Bill, none the less said division of the pension at divorce would be a simple act of justice".

Lord Mackay warned that the change could be viewed as an incentive to divorce because of separate taxation. But he told peers: "I certainly wish to consider sympathetically this series of amendments with the proviso that I consider there are a great number of very difficult questions associated with this which we have to consider and try to resolve.

Lady Hollis's amendments were withdrawn without a vote.

Blair steers a risky course

Tony Blair yesterday pro-vided the Prime Minister with all the invitation necessary to twist the knife in Labour's wounds over education policy.

Having on Wednesday rescued his shadow Health Secretary, Harriet Harman, from the turmoil over sending her 11year-old son to a grammar school, education might have seemed a subject for the Labour leader to steer clear of at Ouestion Time.

But, as was said of Lord Cardigan at Balaclava, showing the qualities "more of a hero than a general", he galloped in on the latest school test results.

The results for 11-year olds in English and maths were "appalling" he said, going on to suggest a reduction in class sizes for five- to seven-year-olds, a register of national head teachers, the use of associate teachers in classrooms, and the reinstatement of the reading recovery

Mr Major accepted that

those at 11 were "disappointing", but said those at other age groups were better. Then came the political punches as he reminded the House that Labour party had opposed the introduction of tests and Mr Blair personally voted against them.

Those test results are very useful. They tell us where the shortcomings are so we may



Goodwin deal with them and we will look at a range of measures to deal with them ... I am glad Mr Blair acknowledges now - better late

than never - that we were right to introduce them." To a barrage of jeers, the Labour leader said it was a "complacent reply". Nor was the problem merely with 11-year-olds, he said. Tests for 14-yearolds showed "an appalling level of failure" in key subjects - and they were children born and ed-

ucated under a Tory government. Mr Major said it was not the Conservatives that were at fault. "Perhaps Mr Blair can explain why some of his friends remove their children from Labour education authorities and have them educated under Conservative education authorities?"

Mr Blair looked as if he had not intended to ask a third question, but with Tory MPs baying for more, he rose again. "Now we see the reason they want to focus attention on one 11-year child is to conceal the damage they have done to millions of our children.

more defensive tone was adopted by the Prime Adopted by the America Maybew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, over their adoption of the Unionist plan for an elected forum as the way out of the impasse in the peace process. With Nationalist fury still ringing in the chamber, Mr

Major said he would like to sec the start of all-party talks "as speedily as possible". The impediment was, as always, the unwillingness of "Sinn Fein-IRA" to disarm. Earlier, SDLP member Sea-

mus Mallon accused the Government of "unilaterally and shamelessly" reneging on an agreement with the Irish government to pursue all-party talks. Ministers had "sacrificed potential consensus" for Unionist support in the Commons.

Sir Patrick shook his head. All-party talks could still begin by the target date of the end of February provided a start was made to decommissioning, he

But if that was not going to happen - as the Mitchell Commission admitted - it was the duty of governments to look to see whether there's another way of creating confidence.

payable while he is alive. That and £10m in court costs.

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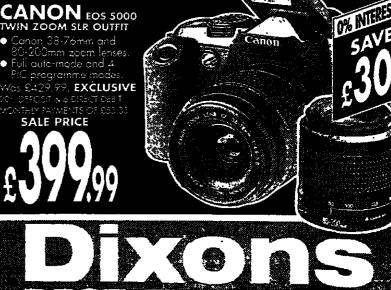


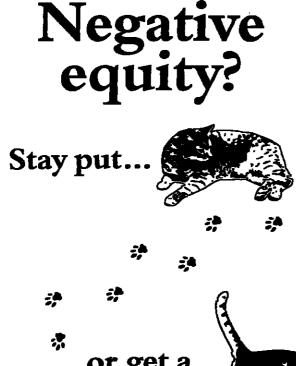
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Alarm over genetic science 'complacency'

NICHOLAS SCHOON **Environment Correspondent**

The Government's green advisers voiced alarm yesterday about the release of genetically engineered life forms into the <u>Institution in the land</u>

The five-strong panel, set up five years ago as a follow-up to the Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit, called for much wider and more careful Government

and micro-organisms and for better scrutiny of the results.

"We are playing not just with fire but with dynamite," said Sir Crispin Tickell, the former am-bassador to the United Nations, who chairs the panel. Its remit is to give the Prime Minister advice on achieving sustamable development. Britain, in partnership with

emergency procedures before any major commercial releases of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) take place, in case there are unforeseen repercus-

In its second annual report, the panel makes the comparithalidomide, new products which were thought to be safe

thinking on the rules allowing other European Union coun-such releases of plants, animals tries, must consider developing to cause severe damage after genetic material of other micro-er countries. Giving a crop their release. "People simply haven't understood the effects of their actions," said Sir Crispin, the warden of an Ox-

ford post-graduate college. Genetic engineering is seen as one of the next century's biggest industries, bringing son with CFCs, pesticides and great advances in agriculture, medicine and other fields. Genes from fungi, bacteria and

organisms or higher plants and animals, giving them abilities foreign to their nature. The genes being transferred can en be designed and created m laboratories.

The technology is still mainly at the experimental stage but there have already been hundreds of releases of altered plants and animals into the en-

plant improved resistance to a particular weed killer is one common example. This weed killer can then be used allowing the farmer a higher yield. But there are fears that the "foreign" genes could spread into other micro-organisms in the wild. Unlike higher animals,

can multiply their numbers very rapidly. There is the possibility resistance to pesticides might be transferred to destructive

nests and disease species. Current controls on releases depend on expert committees covering medicine, agriculture and food giving advice to ministers on whether particular exbacteria and viruses have the periments should go ahead, case by case. Sir Crispin said the

quite different species and they arrangements were "messy and badly co-ordinated". Central to its proposals, the

panel asks the Government to bring together industrialists. academics, doctors, representatives of consumer and environmental groups, and independent experts, to consider a broader control regime covering both medicine and industrial/agricultural applica-

Vouchers for nursery 'may be lottery'

FRAN ARRAMS Education Correspondent

The Government's nursery voucher scheme could turn out to be a lottery in which children in some areas will have little chance of a place, a new report suggests. It also shows that parents will face uncertainty over ceiving a quality education or

Research by the Audit Commission shows that in some areas there are only enough state nursery education places for a quarter of four-year-olds. while in others there are chough

for 9 out of 10. The report, published today, also reveals that middle-class children who receive nursery education can start school with a year's advantage over classmates from deprived areas who do not. Nursery schools give children six months' head start, while playgroups give them

According to the authors of Counting to Five, provision of nursery education is very uneven across the country. The worst provided-for area is Hereford and Worcester, where only 26 per cent of four-year-olds are in state nursery schools or reception classes, and the best is Knowsley, Merseyside, which

provides for 95 per cent. private provision may be state sector is weak, the report says nursery education across the country is "uneven". Even where places are available they may not be taken up because of transport problems or because nursery schools finish hours

The quality of different under-fives services in playgroups and nursery schools varied from excellent to very poor. The only reliable way of ensuring a good education was to check whether a qualified teacher clusive evidence that one type was in charge of the group, the analysis found.

Research carried out by Newcastle University for the commission revealed that going to nursery school could bring a disadvantaged child up to the average ability level or could put an advantaged child up to a year

ilies who had been to nursery whether their children are re- school had the biggest advantage, while boys from deprived not English suffered the biggest

> "Local authorities should take a positive approach to this important area. They should try to develop playgroups, private provision and their own provi-

Don Foster, the Liberal Democrats' education spokesman said the report proved the inadequacy of the Government's voucher scheme, which will be piloted in four areas from April this year and which will be extended nationally by April 1997.

ents what they really want - high quality early-years education. Vouchers will not improve access and will not improve quality. Gillian Shepbard should take note of the Audit Com-Although they suggest that mission's overwhelming evidence and scrap the chaotic, stronger in areas where the confused voucher scheme," he

> Margaret Lochrie, administrator of the Pre-School Learning Alliance, which runs the playgroups, welcomed the report but said it contradicted earlier research which showed

> "This clearly refutes the idea that the only route to high quality is through nursery classes in schools. There is no conof provision out-performs another," she said.

ahead.

Girls from middle-class fam-

Andrew Foster, controller of the Audit Commission, said councils must work with the private sector to counteract prob-

sion." he said.

"Vouchers will not give par-

before most parents finish work.

The quality of different unvantage to children as nursery

Takeover bid: Best-selling brands are the prize as US giants fight for control of £45bn market







Barbie eyes up Action Man in Toytown battle

NIGEL COPE

Toytown was pitched into a billion-dollar takeover conflict yesterday when Barbie, the undisputed queen of the doll market, was sent into battle with Action Man.

The lines were drawn when Barbie's parent company, Mattel-Fisher Price, launched a hostile \$5.2bn (£3.45bn) offer for the rival toy group, Hasbro, Man as well as Barbie's arch rival Sindy, GI Joe and the relaunched Cabbage Patch dolls.

Hasbro has rejected the offer, but if successful it would create the world's largest toy company, with sales of more than \$7bn and a sizeable share of the world's £45bn toy

It could get nasty. Barbie, the pneumatic blonde whose latest incarnation was a Baywatch

beauty, has been top of the toy tree since her debut in 1959. But Sindy, which sells well in the UK but is not available in the US, is certain to put up a fight.

Jon Salisbury, editor of the trade magazine World Toy News, said: "It's all about brands. Mattel is strong in pre-school toys with its Fisher Price range and with the Barbie doll, but it has not had a big boy's toy since Masters of the Universe in 1985. That is Hasbro's strength with Action Man, GI Joe and Tonka toys. This bid was inevitable at some time."

Mattel says it wants to merge with Hasbro because the two have complementary products which when put together would create a stronger group capable of more consistent growth and greater economies of scale. It says it would be able to generate £100m of cost savings in the

Toy companies have long struggled to maintain consistent growth in a market dominated by crazes that are often linked to hit films and television shows such as Jurassic Park, Thunderbirds and Batman. A hit gener-

ates millions. Expensive flops can cripple smaller companies. The tov industry has seen a spate of takeovers in the last few years, Hasbro bought Wadding-

Hasbro

Key brands: Sindy Action Man, Key brands: Barble, Scrapble, Tonka, Waddington (Monopoly), Cabbage Patch dolls, Hut Whiels Gl. Joe, My Little Pony, Playslock, Sales (1995), \$3.65 (r) (£2,407) iales (1995): \$2.86bo (£1.9bo). | Profits: \$370ra (£244m).

Founded: 1923.

Head office: Rhode Island.

Culture: West Crest style, with an aggressive: go getting manage-founding Hasselfeld family. Paternal ment. It is focused on profits above and caring. Helps charities.

1 all else.

But the deal could run into tons, makers of Monopoly. Mattel has acquired Fisher Price and JW Spear, makers of

Scrabble since 1993. Analysts in New York said Hasbro's assets had been under-managed. "We believe that some of Hasbro's evergreen brands could flourish much more under Mattel's skilled nurturing and marketing savvy,"

Profits: \$175m (£115m).

Founded: 1945.

problems, such as difficulties on monopoly grounds as the two are already the largest companies in the sector. Mattel and Hasbro combined would have a 30 per cent share of the \$13bn-a-year US toy market and 25 per cent of the UK's £1.6bn market. Mattel hopes to avoid such problems, possibly by

selling parts of Hasbro. Another potential stumbling block is the contrasting culture of the two companies. Mattel was founded in 1945, is based in Los Angeles and regarded as an aggressive company which focuses strongly on profits. Has-bro was founded in the 1920s, is based in Rhode Island, and the founding Hassenfeld company still controls a large stake. It is known as a paternal employer that donates large sums

Hasbro performed strongly in

formed recently. It had a hit with to follow it up last year. In recent meetings the company's chairman, Alan Hassenfeld, has admitted that the company

needed to be more aggressive. Meanwhile Mattel's fortunes have blossomed, fuelled by Barbie sales, which now account for \$1bn of the group's £3.65bn yearly sale, and the takeover of

Fisher Price in 1993. Analysts say that a white knight could yet rescue Hasbro. Disney has been mentioned as one possibility. Others say that even if the bid fails. Mattel may have weakened Hasbro suffi-

ciently to force a break-up. But one thing is certain. With the UK toy fair due to start in London tomorrow and the world equivalent scheduled for the US next month, this bid will be the talk of Toytown.

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Fraud solicitor jailed

A solicitor whose international £13m swindle defrauded the cooker company Belling and some of Europe's largest firms was jailed for nine years yes-

Charles Deacon, 53, a former under-sheriff of Stafford, and a former mus and bolts salesman. James Fuller, 56, who received a seven-year sentence, spun tales of MI5 and the CIA to extract cash through a bogus

money-lending scheme.
Passing sentence at Middlesex Crown Court, central Lon-don, Judge Fabian Evans QC

told the two men: "The sums of money involved in this case have been quite staggering and have been matched only by the enormity of the lies which you both told."

Apart from Belling, which plundered its pension fund of more than £2.3m to qualify for a "loan" and in the process left many of its former employees facing the prospect of reduced pensions, other companies targeted included Russia's largest co-operative and Finland's biggest food processing com-

DAILY POEM

Between mountain and sea

By Norman MacCaig

Honey and salt - land smell and sea smell, as in the long ago, as in forever.

The days pick me up and carry me off, half-child, half-prisoner,

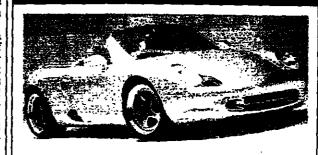
on their journey that I'll share for a while

They wound and they bless me with strange gifts:

the salt of absence the honey of memory

In 1954, a friend of Ian Parsons, then editor at the Hogarth Press, wrote recommending a young poet called Norman Mac-Caig, writes Jonathan Burnham. Parsons contacted MacCaig, who wrote back: "I know publishers are not philauthropists, and that poetry, generally speaking, is lethal stuff to handle. So it seems a good thing to assure you that at least in Scotland there are many people looking forward to the publica-tion of these poems." These poems were published as Riding Lights and the Hogarth Press, and then Chatto & Windus, published all of MacCaig's subsequent work, until his marvellous late collection Voice Over (from which this poem is taken) published in 1988 when he was 78, which finally brought him recognition as one of the most important Scottish poets of the century.

The poems of Norman MacCaig, who died earlier this week, are published as Collected Poems (Chatto, £9.99). Jonathan Burnham is poetry editor at Chatto.



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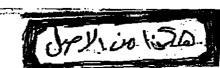












Macency,

The Met under fire: Scotland Yard's image dented by triple blows of corruption, unlawful arrest and jury-nobbling cases



of MPs concluded yesterday. In a report that even by the standards of the often critical Commons Public Accounts

Mr Williams sooner.

CHRIS BLACKHURST

Westminster Correspondent

Scotland Yard should have re-

dised its accountant, Anthony

Williams - convicted of stealing

Highlands, an influential group

Committee was especially hard-

He was convicted in May last

year and sentenced to seven and a half years' imprisonment. A backroom civil servant at Scotland Yard he enjoyed a lifestyle way beyond his means. In London, he lived in suburban New Malden: in Tomintoul in Scotland, he was known as "Lord

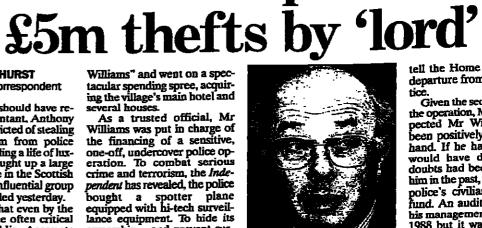
tacular spending spree, acquiring the village's main hotel and

MPs lambast police over

As a trusted official, Mr Williams was put in charge of the financing of a sensitive, one-off, undercover police operation. To combat serious crime and terrorism, the Inde-pendent has revealed, the police bought a spotter plane equipped with hi-tech surveil-lance equipment. To hide its ownership - and prevent sus-pects realising the aircraft overhead belonged to the police -they booked it through a private

company, run by Williams. He was in sole charge of handling the aircraft's running costs. When the pilot wanted cash for fuel, he asked Williams. who paid it from the company account. The company was then reimbursed by the Met, with no estions asked.

Such a unique scheme, with



Anthony Williams: Fraud

funding controlled by one in-dividual, was appalling, said the committee. They found it "unacceptable" that the Met could not prevent the fraud, they were "critical of the service for allowing an arrangement which could not properly safeguard public money" and "de-plored" the police's failure to

tell the Home Office about a departure from standard prac-

Given the secrecy attached to the operation, MPs said they ex-pected Mr Williams to have been positively vetted before-hand. If he had been, checks would have discovered that doubts had been raised about him in the past, when he ran the police's civilian staff welfare fund. An auditor had queried his management of the fund in 1988 but it was only in 1994, after he had finally been arrested for fraud, that an investigation revealed cash had gone

To the embarrassment of the police he was caught only after a bank questioned the large amounts of cash going through his account. Since Mr Williams paid well over the market price for his properties, only £1m of the £5m he stole is ever likely to be recovered.

Assault case settlement costs £90,000

HEATHER MILLS Home Affairs Correspondent

A teacher, a traince solicitor and a prize-winning photographer were yesterday paid more than £90,000 in damages and costs for assault, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution by

the Metropolitan Police. Officers were said to have attacked Paul Demuth, 41, Claire Roberts, 31, and Malcolm Glover, 40, as they were making their way to a London restaurant to celebrate Mr Glover's Sunday Times award for the best documentary photographer of the year.

A court was told the incident, in June 1991, led to Mr Demuth, a teacher, lying unconscious in a pool of blood on the steps of a police station in the West End and ended with the police fabricating evidence, charging him for assault and his two friends for obstruction. It took four months and several court appearance before their inno-

cence was finally established. The Metropolitan Police yesterday denied liability, but in an agreed statement read to the court agreed to pay a total of £44,000 and a similar amount in costs. The statement recorded that the officers involved stood by their allegations against the three, as they had from the

outset. The payout is the latest in a string of court awards and settlements by the Met which in 1994 totalled nearly £1.4m plus costs. Out of 304 civil actions,

Yesterday Mr Glover said the award was a "hollow victory".
"This has left all of us incredibly paranoid about the police. I am still at a loss to understand it."

Central London county court was told that the three, all from Hearn Hill south London, were in Soho when Constables Martin Heap and Colin Baker walked by and one shouted "stop". Mr Demuth dropped a tiny amount of cannabis onto the ground and, on seeing this, PC Heap ran up, pushed him against a wall and cuffed his hands behind his back. He threw Mr Demuth on to the pavement, where he landed on his face. "PC Heap then placed his knee or foot on Paul's head,

forcing it into the pavement." When his friends tried to intervene, they too were seized, the court was told. All three were thrown into a police van. "Get that fart out of there," another officer, PC Bruce Wilson said. In the van PC Heap held Mr Demuth in a headlock, "laughing and joking about

what he was doing".

Mr Demuth alleged that at the station he was pushed or swung out of the van so that he fell headfirst, landing on the ground and losing conscious-

He was taken to hospital where his wound was stitched. As well as his physical injuries, Mr Demuth suffered trauma and psychological damage", the court was told. He was awarded £20,000 and his friends £12,000 each.

the police won only 24. Former officer jailed for bid to nobble jury

A former police sergeant who left the force after an exemplary 24-year career was jailed for seven years vesterday after the first "jury-nobbling" case involving a former or serving police officer to come before a British court.

John Young, 45, who was shot twice and awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal while a serving officer, demanded £30,000 to help influence the outcome of an Old Bailey trial last year. Southwark Crown Court heard that, helped by an as-yel-unidentified serving officer, who was supposed to be part of a team providing 24-hour pro-tection for the jurors, he obtained highly-confidential addresses of some of those try-

ing the armed robbery case. Passing sentence, Judge Gerald Butler QC told Young, who turned private detective after leaving the police force two years ago, that what he had done "strikes at the very roots of our system of criminal justice". He went on: "For that reason a deterrent sentence is inevitable.

Young, who was convicted earlier of "doing acts intending and intended to pervert the course of justice" between 13 March and 15 April, showed no reaction apart from turning to relatives in the public gallery

and saying "All right". Opening the week-long trial, Joanna Korner QC, for the prosecution, said Young had



Young: £30,000 demand

"spotted a potential to make a great deal of money". She explained that the Old Bailey case involved kidnapping, robhery and firearms. Each juror was being protected round the clock by two policemen.

Regrettably the arrangements had the very opposite effect, because it enabled a corrupt police officer to obtain names and addresses of jurors and pass them onto someone who might have an interest in influencing the jury," she said.

The jury heard that Young, of Poplar Close, New Barn, Kent. approached the sister of one of those on trial as she left the Old Bailey public gallery and offered to supply her valuable information which would help her brother, in return for cash.

An undercover police surveillance operation resulted in Young's arrest.

Notice to Customers

SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

National Savings Certificates of the 42nd Issue and 8th Index-linked Issue were withdrawn from sale on 25 January 1996.

Photograph: Edward Sykes

The 43rd Issue will go on sale on 26 January. It will offer a guaranteed and tax-free return of 5.35% pa compound when held for five years.

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Series 2 Pensioners Bonds were withdrawn from general sale on 25 January 1996 (but see the next paragraph). Series 3 will go on sale on 26 January. It will offer a guaranteed rate of 7.0% pa gross for the first five years

Series 2 Bonds will remain on sale for holders of National Savings Income Bonds who wish to use the proceeds of their Income Bonds to reinvest into Pensioners Bonds provided that:

(a) the application to repay the Income Bonds was received at National Savings, Blackpool between 29 November 1995 and 25 January 1996 inclusive; and, (b) the option to reinvest into Pensioners Bonds is exercised within 1 month of the repayment date of the Income Bonds.

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On and from 26 January 1996, the first year fixed rate on FIRST Option Bonds will be 6.25% gross (5.0% net assuming tax at 20%). Bonds of £20,000 or more held to the first anniversary will earn a bonus of 0.25% gross (0.2% net).

INCOME BONDS

On and from 9 March 1996 the variable ("Treasury") rate of interest payable on Income Bonds will be 6.25% pa gross. The bonus on holdings of £25,000 or more remains at 0.25% pa gross. The gross rates from 9 March will therefore be as follows:

> Holding Rate of interest under £25,000 6.25% pa £25,000 and over 6.5% pa

INVESTMENT ACCOUNT

On and from 9 February 1996 the variable gross rates of interest on deposits in an Investment Account will be as

> Balance in account Rate of interest under £500 5.0% pa £500 to £24,999 5.5% pa 5.75% pa £25,000 and over

ORDINARY ACCOUNT

On and from 1 March 1996 the variable rates of interest on deposits in an Ordinary Account will be as follows:

> Standard rate 1.75% pa Higher rate 2.75% pa

PREMIUM BONDS

On and from 1 May 1996 the variable interest rate used to calculate the prize fund will be 4.75% pa. At the same time, a new scale of prizes will be introduced. This will fix the number of prizes at 350,000 a month. The prize values will continue to range from £50 to the £1 million monthly jackpot, but there will be a new method of calculating the number of prizes of each value. The number of larger prizes, after the £1 million jackpot, will no longer be fixed at 44 a month but will grow as the prize fund grows. The new method will result in about double the current number of prizes in the range £5,000 to £100,000. There will also be more prizes of £500 and £1,000. Full details of how the prize fund will be allocated were published in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes dated 26 January 1996. They will also be included in a new booklet expected to be available at post offices from 11 March.

DEPOSIT BONDS (no longer on sale). On and from 9 March 1996 the variable rate of interest will be 6.25% pa gross.

Sales booklets (including application forms) are available from post offices. Alternatively you can get copies by telephoning 0500 500 000.



Issued by the Department for National Savings on behalf of the Treasury

Doubts grow over Dole after Clinton triumph

RUPERT CORNWELL Washington

Senator Bob Dole, uneasy front-runner for the Republican nomination, yesterday travelled to the key Presidential caucus state of Iowa to shore up a candidacy starting to be undermined by doubts about his age. and his inability to project an appealing vision to voters.

Crystallising the concerns was the reply that the 72-yearold Senate majority leader gave to President Clinton's State of the Union address. Mr Dole's



flat, lacklustre performance delighted Democrats. It was universally panned by the media and greeted even by some of his staunchest supporters with the most damning of faint praise.

Mr Dole's aides insist that the

limp, impersonal setting of his Senate office, from which he delivered the 12-minute response,

would have handicapped any Republican who had to speak after the President. Mr Clinton exploited his gift for television to the full amid the pomp and splendour of a House of Representatives chamber bursting

at the seams with dignitaries. And the conservative, sometimes harsh language for which Mr Dole has been criticised was, say his supporters, aimed not at the country at large, but at the more partisan and activist Republicans who tend to vote in primaries and who are now being courted by his rivals.

pounding yesterday came from that quarter. According to Lamar Alexander, the former Tennessee governor who is still struggling to make an impact in the campaign, Mr Dole's uninspiring performance proved that the Republicans needed "a visionary, not a legislative architect" to beat the

Democratic incumbent. Pat Buchanan, the conservative commentator and candidate, turned to baseball for a metaphor: "Our starting pitcher got shelled; it's time to bring

Predictably, the fiercest some new kids from the minors." Phil Gramm, the Texas senator vying with Mr Buchanan for the conservative vote, declared flatly that "Bob Dole cannot and will not beat Bill Clinton"

> In the heat of the campaign such complaints are worth far less than face value. But the evidence from the polls, and from Mr Dole's own tepid reception on the campaign trail, is that a truism of Republican primary politics - the early favourite always wins - may come under serious threat in 1996.

February, and in New Hampshire, where the first full-scale primary takes place eight days later, the magazine publisher Steve Forbes has halved Mr Dole's once majestic lead. In Arizona, voting on 27 February, Mr Forbes has a solid lead, according to one poll, and in Delaware, another early primary state, the two are running neck and neck. Thereafter the campaign moves south, to states where Mr Gramm and Mr Alexander should do better. Out in the field, Mr Dole, 36

In Iowa, which votes on 12 years in Congress and the ultimate Washington insider, has by far the best organisation. Five hundred people turned out at one New Hampshire rally, at which he was accompanied by a platoon of the senators and governors who have endorsed him. But his speech set nobody alight, and four-fifths of the crowd turned out to have been bused in from Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Disenchantment with Mr Dole, meanwhile, is starting to rekindle the impossible dream of a candidacy by General Col-

tary chief. In November General Powell firmly closed the door to a 1996 candidacy. But some Republicans cling to the hope that a bloody and inconclusive battle among the current field might leave him open to entreaty. On Wednesday night, he was the star attraction at a Republican "Road to the White House" dinner which raised a record \$16m (£10.4m) for party coffers. Guests filed past General Powell's table as if he were royalty.

News Analysis, page 13

Facing the firing squad: Execution of murderer pits Mormon tradition of 'blood atonement' against state's modernised image

Utah takes a bloody step into the past

DAVID USBORNE Draper, Utah

By the time they wake this morning, the people of Utah should find that John Albert Taylor is no longer among them: killed by four bullets in the heart shortly after midnight. Only Taylor had the power to halt his dispatch by lodging an eleventh-hour appeal to the courts. As his Prison that is usually a sewing last hours ticked by last night he showed no sign of exercising it.

The firing-squad execution of Taylor, convicted of the rape and murder of 11-year-old Charla King in 1989, has cast an unwelcome spotlight on a state that is striving to find a new image of modernity and touristfriendly hospitality while at the same time remaining steeped in the sometimes archaic traditions of the Mormon church, to which most of the population belongs. It has also provoked anguished international and re-

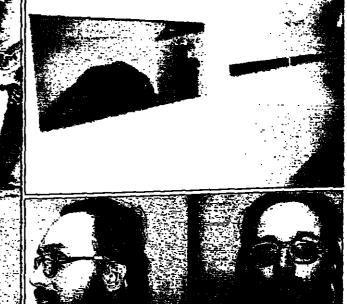
ligious protest. Though the pace of executions is surging across the US, Taylor will be the first convict to die by firing squad since Gary in 1977 for the murder of a motel clerk. The state is unique in

firing squad and by lethal inection. Convicts can be shot in Idaho, but only at the discretion of the authorities.

Nowhere were the cross-currents of old and new - 19th-century grotesque and 20th-century political correctness - more evident than in the execution chamber itself, hidden within a warehouse at the Utah State workshop. To be sure, Taylor's death was to be violent, but his blood, officials boasted, would not be allowed "to splatter".

Hence the chair into which he would be strapped for the shooting, built by prison staff. Of straight-backed design in shiny black metal, it is fitted with leg and wrist restraints made of Velcro. The seat of the chair is perforated like a kitchen colander, so the victim's blood can drain quickly into a large metal pan below, sloping slightly to the back. To screen the flow of blood, a rectangle of deep-pile blue carpet had been wrapped around the inside of the chair's

As he walked from his regu-Gilmore was shot, also in Utah, lar cell to the warehouse in the early hours of yesterday, Taylor was granted one of his final offering its condemned prison- wishes - a few drags on a ciga-



UTAH STATE PRISON UTAH STATE PRISON DRAPER-UTAH

Warehouse of death; Journalists view the chair in the warehouse at Utah State Prison in Draper in which John Taylor will be strapped. Above right: The chair reflected in the window of the room from where the shots will be fired. Bottom right: The official prison photograph of Taylor, convicted of murdering an 11-year-old girl Photographs: AP

laws forbid lighting up inside. Last night his second request was honoured: a supper of pizza loaded with mushrooms, ham and Canadian bacon.

The plan for his final minutes was meticulously laid. Shortly before midnight, Taylor was to be marched into the chamber itself, strapped into the chair and a hood placed over his head. A

possible, since Utah's smoking heart with a stethoscope and fix a square piece of red cloth over it as a target. Then Taylor was to be given two minutes to make a final statement. The order to fire was to be given by the prison warden.

Of all the chapters in the Tayfor saga, few have been as shocking as the avalanche of offers from around the US to act as one of the five execuers a choice between death by rette. To have it later was not medical officer was to locate his tioners. A platoon from a South

Carolina army camp stepped forward, as did a self-described former CIA intelligence agent. Instead the men have been provided by local police forces. They were to stand behind a wall concealed from Taylor and push their rifle barrels through letter-box slits. According to tra-

dition, one will have a blank in his weapon, so each can believe he did not kill the victim. Taylor, who dispensed with national and the American Civ-

spurned all civil liberties groups, told a journalist he preferred bullets to lethal injection, because he did not want to "flop around like a dying fish". But historical research of the 39 firing-squad executions held in Utah since 1852 shows that it can take as long as 27 minutes

Protests by Amnesty Inter-

his lawyer a month ago and has

il Liberties Union, and a tally in Salt Lake City earlier this week appeared to move few among Utah's politicians. Running through the controversy is the state's Mormon heritage. and the traditional teaching of the church - though its leaders today now distance themselves from it - that those who kill can avoid being cast into "outer darkness" after death only through the spilling of their own

blood, or so-called "blood atonement". In the past, some of the condemned in Utah have been shot at the site of their crimes, a coffin beside them. t Smyrna, Delaware - Billy Bailey, the murderer of an elderly couple, climbed on to a wooden gallows and was hanged early yesterday, becoming only the third convict in the US to be executed in this way in 30 years, AP reports.

Soviet Lada boss to steer economy

PHIL REEVES Moscow

Speculation about the fate of Russia's fragile economic re-forms swelled yesterday as Boris Yeltsin appointed a Soviet-era industrialist to mastermind his economic policy, opening him-self to criticism that he is trying to curry favour with Communist and nationalist voters before the presidential election in June.

The Kremlin announced that Vladimir Kadanníkov, an executive from the Russia's troubled motor industry, would replace Anatoly Chubais, the liberal-leaning minister who headed Russia's mass privatisation programme before being sacked last week.

His appointment is certain to fuel fears among the free mar-

ket lobby that the embattled President is willing to sacrifice Russia's tough, if painful, antiinflationary strategy in order to win support among an estranged electorate.

Although seen as relatively

progressive during the Gor-bachev era, Mr Kadannikov, 54, has advocated protectionism and import tariffs in his capacity as head of Russia's largest car plant, AvtoVAZ, which makes Ladas. A friend of Mr Yeltsin, and also of the President's hardline bodyguard, Alexan-der Korzhakov, he is thought to align himself with the more conservative element in the Kremlin's inner circle.

His appointment coincides with a swing towards the right by the Yeltsin administration, marked by the ousting of several of its top liberals in favour of hardliners. Such is the volume of comment about the Kremlin's current tack that Mr Yeltsin vesterday decided to intervene. lambasting those who come to hasty, and superficial conclusions" about his personnel

changes. According to the Interfax news agency, he said he had no intention of "betraying" his political or economic course, but talked about the need to be aware of the "tactics" of reform, which were "often forced by circumstances".

This suggests that the president has two aims. On the one hand, he seems to want to convince reformers that his latest moves are merely vote-winning tactics; on the other, he is clear-

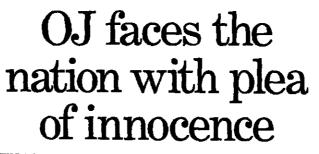
presenting himself as a decisive leader who will slay the dragons of corruption and poverty.

Whether cosmetic or not. whether cosmetic or not, the shift has been nothing if not eventful. Since the Communists' victory in December's parliamentary elections, Mr Yeltsin has replaced his foreign minister, Andrei Kozyrev, his chief of staff, Sergei Filatov, and Mr Chubais – all reformers whose iobs have gone to more

conservative successors.

Meanwhile, he launched a crude and failed attempt to crush by brute force a band of hostage-taking Chechen rebels in Dagestan.

And yesterday, uncompli-mentary comments were already circulating about Mr Kadannikov's credentials as economic supremo.



TIM CORNWELL Los Angeles

OJ Simpson finally went on television this week for the first time since being acquitted of double murder, insisting he was as in-nocent as any fellow American, and demanded that he be

treated accordingly.
"If you don't like me, leave me alone," said Mr Simpson. "I'm not bothering you." Since October he has been

sued by the families of his exwife Nicole and Ronald Goldman, the murder victims, pilloried by radio talk-show hosts and cold-shouldered by advertisers and golf clubs alike.

Immediately after his trial he pulled out of a network television interview, citing the advice of his lawyers, when it threatened to turn into a full-scale inquisition into his version of events. He was paid a reported \$3m (£2m) for a mail-order video, OJ: The Interview, and his appearance on Wednesday night on the only black-owned cable channel in the US was partly aimed at promoting the video, which retails at \$30.

The former sporting idol gave a polished, at times per-

suasive, performance in a sympathetic setting. He was not pressed on the evidence that persuaded most Americans watching his criminal trial that he was guilty, and which wrecked his career as a film actor and television personality.

Ducking questions about the night of the killings, he either cited the advice of his lawyers, or invited viewers to buy the video for the full answers. "I did not commit those murders," he said. "I could not kill anyone." At times, however, the anger

came through. Women's groups had made him a "whipping boy", and he was "pissed" at the families of his ex-wife and Ronald Goldman, now suing him for damages on the allegation that he stalked, stabbed and slashed them to death.

Mr Simpson portrayed himself as the victim of racism in the Los Angeles Police Department and in the US at large. "They want me to go to Africa? Go where?" he said, asked about people in his wealthy Los Angeles neighbourhood who put up signs calling him a killer. "I live in LA. If they don't want me in Brentwood, they



Fair hearing: OJ Simpson adjusts his earphone before his first TV appearance since his trial

He angrily denied reports of ders, the Simpson camp has sugparties and high living, saying he constantly mourned Nicole. "How much lower should I lay?" he asked. "What I would like to do is raise my kids, spend as much time as I can with my family, especially my mum, who is here tonight, and play golf." Initial reactions on the streets of Los Angeles ap-peared to show that his smooth performance had changed few minds either way.

Mr Simpson yesterday was questioned for the fourth day in a row by lawyers in the civil suit. Few details of this first grilling under oath have leaked out, though transcripts of the testimony will eventually be re-leased. The case is scheduled for April. But lawyers for the Goldman and Brown families say they have zeroed in on "inconsistencies" in his alibis. Pressed to explain why he failed to an-

gested variously he was chipping golf balls, in the shower, or

In a replay of the convoy that followed him home from the triai, news helicopters trailed Mr Simpson's limousine to the Los Angeles studios of Black Entertainment Television. It was a major scoop for a station popular across urban America, but which is better known for music videos than heavyweight

news coverage. The interviewer, Ed Gordon, focused on what he said were issues of concern to black Americans, such as whether Mr Simpson had cashed in on the murder of his wife or turned

his back on his black roots. Mr Simpson cited scholarships he funded for students in his old neighbourhoods. He said he was struggling to recover financially from millions lost in swer when a chauffeur called at the court case, and to support his gate on the night of the mur-

MAPLES THE FINE ART OF FURNISHING

YEARS

INTEREST FREE CREDIT

triumph. Paris and Bonn rush to shore up faltering EMU

Despite British predictions to the contrary, senior government ministers in France and Germany insisted vesterday that the European Union would proceed on schedule with its plan to launch a single curren-

cy in 1999 Prime Minister Alain Juppe of France, his Foreign Minister, Hervé de Charette, and Ger-many's Foreign Minister. Klaus Kinkel, reaffirmed that monetary union would not be postponed and there would be no watering down of Maastricht's strict criteria for countries wish-

ing to join the single currency. Behind the unflinching exterior, however, it has become clear this week that EU governments have begun to contemplate the possibility that it may not be a good idea to go ahead with monetary union as planned in 1999. The doubts coincide with a conviction among European politicians and bankers that the Maastricht timetable is too rigid and takes no account of the slowdown in the European economy.
Only yesterday, France's In-

dustry Minister, Franck Borotra, said that if he had to choose between Maastricht and jobs, he would choose jobs. Moreover, even Mr de Charette, before issuing his statement of unconditional support for the Maastricht treaty, had told a French radio station that it might be useful to interpret the treaty's rigid conditions on low budget deficits more flexibly, as proposed on Wednesday by a former president, Valery Giscard d'Estaing.

Italy's Prime Minister, Lamberto Dini, made much the same point about the cost in European jobs a few weeks ago when he said it would be foolish to proceed with the Euro, the recently christened single currency, as long as EU-wide unemployment averaged nearly 11 per cent. Mr Dini seemed to underline Italian doubts about the wisdom of sticking to the 1999 deadline when he said that, as the country holding the EU's rotating presidency, Italy ine circumstances in which

COMMENTARY

would henceforth concentrate its efforts on job creation. Meanwhile, Sweden's Finance Minister, Goran Persson, announced that he intended to relax the austerity programme he introduced last year, raise so-cial security benefits and take measures to halve unemployment by 2000. This was tantamount to saying Sweden had no interest in joining a single cur-rency in 1999.



De Charette: Looking for more flexibility

However, the real bombshell came from Spain on Tuesday, when the Foreign Minister, Carlos Westendorp, in remarks not intended for publication, revealed that the EU would delay the 1999 launch unless a "critical mass" of countries met the Maastricht targets in time. These included Germany, France, the Deutschmark-zone states (the Benelux countries and Austria), and at least one from Britain, Italy and Spain.

France was convulsed before Christmas by its worst social unrest since 1968, and its economic growth this year is likely to be well below government predictions. The Maastricht deficit target of only 3 per cent of gross domestic product in 1997 is looking increasingly difficult for the French government to meet.

Still, if there were enough political will, it is possible to imag

France — and other countries with deficit and public debt problems, such as Austria and Belgium — would be deemed suitable candidates for monetary union even if they did not quite meet the Maastricht tar-

gets. After all, Maastricht permits countries to join the single currency if they are making sufficient progress towards, rather than actually meeting, the defict and debt targets. With Britain, Italy and Spain

it is another matter. Few EU governments or independent economists think these countries will join up in 1999, either for political or economic reasons. The European Commission decided this week not to promote the Euro in Britain, a sure sign it does not expect Britain to be in the project from the start.

As for Italy, its formidably high public debt -- 124 per cent of GDP, when Maastricht requires an upper limit of 60 per cent - makes it an unlikely participant. Spain not only has a budget deficit of 6 per cent of GDP but shockingly high unemployment of almost 23 per cent, causing one former finance minister, Miguel Boyer, to comment this week that for Spain the Maastricht timetable was "a political trap with a high economic price".

The European Commission complains that to associate Maastricht with unemployment and recession is unfair. Officials correctly point out that EU governments would need to cut their deficits whether or not there was a single currency project. However, if Mr Westendorp's leaked remarks are accurate, it seems likely that either the Euro will not be launched on time, or the Maastricht criteria will have to be

The problem is that to dilute or delay Maastricht would almost certainly cause enormous turbulence on the foreign exchange markets, possibly dooming the single currency for ever.

reinterpreted.

Fishermen to the rescue of a feathered friend in need



Breaking the ice: Anglers use an axe to try to free a grebe trapped in frozen waters at Roermond, the Netherlands

Americans brandish big stick over Bosnia

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY

"Speak softly and carry a big stick," said Theodore Roosevelt, an adage the Americans are putting into practice in northern Bosnia. Although they lack the long experience of peace-keeping of the British and French, the Americans have stumbled on one of its cardinal principles.

The armoured bridge-layers and wide, low "Humvees", cross-country vehicles carrying heavy machine guns, mingle with thousands of other green and black vehicles bearing the Stars and Stripes, while military Tony Barber | police direct everyone.

In the vastness of the desert ter a scare report that a single the Gulf war, the impression black mujahedin Muslim fightin the Gulf war, the impression made by the huge US presence was diluted. But in the narrow Bosnian lanes the sheer numbers, professionalism, self-confidence and swagger of the US 1st Armoured Division convey an awesome impression of American power. No local warlord is going to mess with these people.

But for all their firepower, the Americans remain highly security-conscious. Their vehicles only travel in groups of four or more, while troops put on body armour and full battle equipment to move between buildings on the Tuzla base, which went on to a "red alert" this week af-

er was on the loose in a US uniform. The mujahedin were supposed to have been out of Bosnia by mid-January, Between half and two-thirds

of the US-led Multinational Division (North) has now arrived, including troops from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Poland, Turkey and Russia.

The Russians yesterday began moving in their main body of Incredibly, it might just work.

London (AP) — Bosnia troops by rail through Hungary to Bijeljina, on the "Serb side" as it is now known. Nato's supreme commander,

US General George Joulwan, and the Russian special representative to Nato, Colonel-

"The last estimate I got is that General Leontiy Shevtsov, were there is somewhere between 200 due to fly to Tuzla from Moscow yesterday following talks with and 300 suspected grave sites in the Russian Defence Minister, Bosnia," he said. Visiting Srebrenica, eastern General Pavel Grachev. However, the freezing weather had

turned the huge Tuzla runway

Bosnia will in time be joined by

small units from Estonia, Latvia

and Lithuania. If ever there was

a laboratory for international

military co-operation, it is here.

may hold up to 300 mass graves,

but it is not possible to secure

them all, the commander of

Nato's peace force, Admiral

Leighton Smith, said vesterday.

The nationalities already in

into an ice rink.

Bosnia, last weekend, the US Assistant Secretary of State, John Shattuck, spoke of evidence that up to 7,000 lie buried in mass graves. Richard Goldstone, head of the international war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, said investigators would arrive at the reputed graves "in the very near future". On Wednesday, two Bosnian Serb leaders, Nikola Koljevic and Momcilo Krajisnik. promised to allow a full inquiry into alleged mass graves near Srebrenica and elsewhere.

PRODUCT RECALL

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The public are advised to return any affected bottles to the point of purchase for a refund.

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Investors Chronicle, complete with Peps Survey is on sale on 26th January 1996 from your local newsagent. Price £2.00.



international

Spy scandal: Security agency disowns 'amateurish' snooping

SA minister latest victim in bugging mystery

ROBERT BLOCK Johannesburg

Someone is bugging, tracking and, in general, snooping on very important people in South

Over the past few weeks, the country has been rocked by reports that government ministers have been tracked and senior police officers' homes and offices bugged, James Bond-style, with electronic devices attached to their telephones, ceilings

In the latest revelation, the Minister for Land Affairs, Derek Hanekom, announced this week that a sophisticated tracking device had been found in his official car in November. For weeks he kept the thin metal transmitting device in the car ashtray, thinking it was an antitheft device. After an aide expressed concern he took it to the police, who identified it as a chip capable of transmitting the minister's movements to airborne



Vice-President Mbeki: Denies he was involved

The fact a government minister and top police officials, including provincial police commissioners, were being spied on is beyond doubt. The questions are, who is responsible and why?

Most fingers have been pointed at the National Intelligence Agency (NIA), the new internal security body whose activities are under investigation by a judicial commission of inquiry and parliament's intelligence committee. The NIA denies it was responsible for bugging the police and tracking Mr Hanekom, saying: "We ... would like to think that we, when necessary, do it more professionally than these obviously amateurish efforts."

A spokesman, Willem Theron, dismissed the reports as the machinations of rival security organisations who want to discredit the agency. "The whole thing sounds strange to us. Our stated policy is that we do not spy on political parties' officials," he said.

Doubts linger about the NIA denials. Perhaps the most damaging allegations against the NIA were made at the weekend by a former municipal official. Werner van Greunen, a former secretary to a mayor north of Jo-hannesburg, said he was hired by the NIA with the knowledge of the Deputy President, Thabo Mbeki, to spy on National Par-ty members in local government and report on "unconstitutional activities which threatened the government".

Among those he said he was ordered to spy on were Butch Breytenbach, brother of a former defence minister. Wynand Breytenbach, Mr van Greunen said his targets were members of the the Broederbond, the semi-secret conservative society of Afrikaner intellectuals.

Mr Mbeki's staff denied all knowledge of spying opera-tions involving Mr van Greunen. They said he approached the Vice-President volunteering information "which implicated senior government officials in criminal conduct". Because of the serious nature of the allegations, Mr Mbeki and the Safety and Security Minister, Sydney Mufamadi, met Mr van Greunen. But he had failed to back his claims with evidence.

Mr van Greunen has failed to provide proof to support his claims. There are suggestions he concocted the story to deflect attention from an investigation into financial irregularities.

Mr van Greunen insists he was a spy and Mr Mbeki and Mr Mufamadi were aware of his activities, "I am quite confident I have spoken the truth and that all the allegations made in my affidavit [to the police] can be substantiated," he said.

Whether or not the NIA was asked to spy on National Party members, there is evidence of unexplained surveillance. Mark Shaw, an intelligence expert at the South African Institute for Defence Policy, said: "The only thing you can say for sure is that these reports will form the first test of the government's commitment to oversight of intelligence activities,"

Accused president wants referendum

Colombia's President Ernesto Samper, under widespread pressure to resign for allegedly accepting cocaine proceeds. has called for a referendum on whether he should stay in office, writes Phil Davison.

The country's worst political crisis in years erupted this week when Mr Samper's detained former campaign manager and defence minister, Fernando Botero, broke a long silence and said Mr Samper knew the 1994 campaign was taking millions of dollars from the Cali cocaine cartel. Mr Botero's lawyer, Fernando Londoño, went further, saying it was Mr Samper who solicited the money.

"Only two people on the

4 1+5% 1-55

campaign had that power, Sam-per and Botero, and it wasn't Botero," the lawyer said. Mr Samper insists the reverse is true. In a television interview, he said he had confined himself to the political side of the campaign while Mr Botero had handled its administration, including finances.

With the President and his former close friend and aide accusing each other of lying, it has come down to a question of which of them the Colombians believe. One poll said 62 per cent believed Mr Botero while 20 per cent believed Mr Sam-per. In another, 57 per cent of Colombians said the President should resign.

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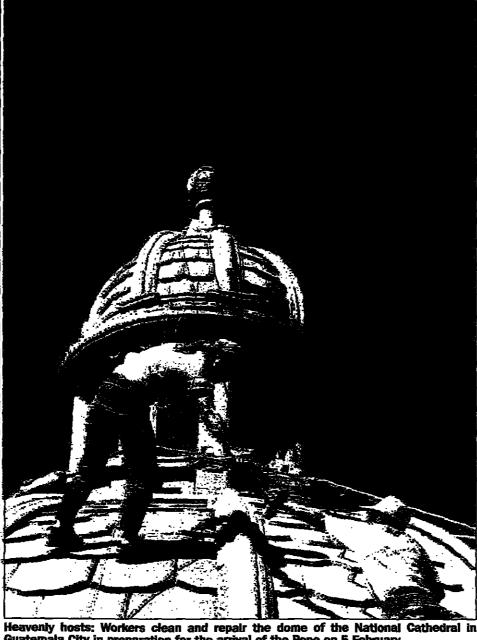
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Guatemala City in preparation for the arrival of the Pope on 5 February

John Grisham wins his last case

John Grisham, Mississippi lawyer turned best-selling author, won his last case on Wednesday — at his first trial as a defence attorney in seven years. The author of The Firm. The Pelican Brief and several other novels with legal themes, convinced a jury that the Illinois Central Railroad was responsible for the 1991 death of a brakeman crushed be-

tween two rail carriages.

After two hours of deliberation, the jury awarded Barbara King \$683,500 (£444,000) in the death of her husband, John.
"It's the biggest verdict I've ever gotten. I'm tickled to death," said Mr Grisham, who was hired by Mrs King before he became an international bestselling author.

After a lottery draw, 25 Grisham fans got seats for the trial in the Lincoln County rail town of Brookhaven. "Some of you may have heard of me through my

books," Mr Grisham told the "As far as I'm concerned, that's totally irrelevant to anything we're doing here."
He added: "I'm not going to ask how many of you have read

my books.
"I once asked some high school students that, and was

PEOPLE

Mildred Trouillot: A distraction for Aristide

o some observers, the wed-I ding of Jean-Bertrand Aristide and Mildred Trouillot last weekend was as much a political contract as a marital union, with the couple vowing to serve the Haitian people.

"When you look at this ring. remember me and remember you are an advocate of the peo-ple," the not-so-romantic Pres-ident told his bride, a New York-born Haitian lawyer,

during the ceremony.

Ms Trouillot urged Mr Aristide to see his ring and "remember that it is better to fail with the people than to succeed without them, and with the people there is no failure".

Many poor Haitians were worried that Mr Aristide's commitment to them will wane

They reckon that his wife simply a light-skinned foreigner to many — will not un-derstand their suffering. "This business about di-

vorcing the people - no way. the President said after the lowkey wedding, during which the couple barely glanced at each other and exchanged only awkward kisses on the cheek.

Bernard Tapie is embarking on yet another career. The French business tycoon - an expop singer, former television presenter, ex-government minister and former owner of the Olympique de Marseille football team - is to perform in a "tender and cruel comedy" film, Hommes, Femmes, Mode d'Emploi. directed by Claude

Leiouch. Twe been asking Tapie to be in one of my movies for 20 years, Mr Lelouch told the newspaper Le Figuro. "He has an essential quality for the movies: he knows how to be convincing."
Mr Tapie wasn't convincing

enough to avoid conviction last year on corruption charges. But Mr Lelouch, who won an Oscar for his 1966 film Un Homme et Une Femme, is not worried.

"I have directed the top actors and I am confident -Tapie is a film star," he said. The movie, starring Anouk Aimée, is about modern society as the century draws to an

end. Mr Lelouch said. He reckons Mr Tapie is typ-

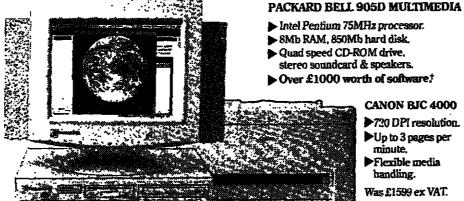
ical of the times. "He is a man in a hurry in an era that is in even more of a hurry.

The filming itself is being done quickly.

Mr Tapie still faces a prison sentence, against which he is appealing.

Maryann Bird

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Poor pay heavy price in China's brutal hospitals

TERESA POOLE

In the emergency wing of the Peking Children's Hospital, the three-year-old girl's parents were looking desperate. They had arrived from Yi county in central Hebei province, dressed in traditional peasant padded-cotton winter clothes, hoping to find a hospital willing to treat their daughter for leukaemia.

Tears rolled down both parents cheeks as they explained what had happened. A doctor planned to check whether the girl was strong enough for a bone marrow operation. But even if she was, nothing would be done unless the parents provided a 20,000 yuan (£1,600) deposit, more than 16 times the average peasant's earnings in a year. We are only lao bai xing [common people]." wept the father. "Where can we find this large amount of money?"

Since they had arrived, the family had been staying on a construction site, where migrant workers from their village are employed, or in very basic hostels. The little girl was so weak she could eat only yogurt. If an operation was the only hope, they would return to their village 60 miles away and try to borrow the money, the parents said.

The Peking Children's Hos-pital is probably the best of its kind in China. But the scene in the waiting rooms gives some idea of the brutality of China's

Human Rights Watch re-cently focused on the high death rate among orphans and abundoned children across Chi-na, often through deliberate neglect. But those horrifying statistics are only one aspect of China's harsh welfare system. It is shocking, but not surprising, that abandoned children are left to die in orphanages, given the way that some sick children who do have parents are dealt with, now that treatment is on a pay-

as-you-go basis. Leukaemia is a disease that many developing countries can-not afford to treat. But on a visit to the hospital waiting rooms there was no difficulty in finding other routine examples of children for whom there is no medical safety net.

A migrant worker from Sichuan who had been living in Peking for several years had brought in his five-year-old son, who was suffering from pneumonia. The father's clothes were ragged. As the child sat slumped on the ground in the corner, a medical orderly was telling the father he must pay 110 yuan (£9) for another dose of medicine. "Otherwise it is too late," she said. The father was in despair: "I do not have a place to live. Where can I get such money?

In a rare act of compassion, a comfortably-off Peking father who witnessed the scene stepped forward and paid for the boy's injection. The medical



Weighed down: A sick child in hospital in Sichuan. For rural Chinese, medical treatment is an expensive luxury Photograph: Gilles Peres / Magnum

about tomorrow?" She told the boy's father: "You should find

divide is between city and rur- enough to work for a bankrupt al people. The former, attached to danwei (work units), are re-

enterprise. China's 900 million rural people, by contrast, in-

In their case, the former socialist medical system has virtually evaporated, while the new medical insurance schemes that are being tried out cover

At the Peking Children's Hospital, administrators said prices were the same for city or rural patients. The hospital works at its limits. The 700 beds are always full and about 5,000

country come for outpatient care. But for the Chinese government to plead lack of resources in this case seems disingenuous. This was a city that spent a fortune in a bid for the 2000 Olympics, and where the party chief is under "investigation" over a £24m corrup-tion scandal.

In China's market economy, everything has a price tag. In the crowded hospital cashiers' room, the mother of a five-year old boy recovering from a tonsillectomy was queuing to pay the 1,795 yuan (£144) bill for eight days in hospital. The bill was broken down in detail: Medicine 800 yuan; surgery 300 yuan; use of a bed 60 yuan; heating 300 yuan; nursing care 35 yuan; and food 300 yuan. The mother explained that her urban work unit would meet most of the bill for medicines but nothing else, as it was not an

emergency.
This week the government organised a briefing to defend the country's human rights record. Amid talk of judicial procedures, and "hostile" Western human rights groups, Liu Hainian, director of the Law Institute at the Chinese Academy of Social Science, admitted that "another important as-pect" to human rights in China was the provision of "social in-surance". Human rights, he said, consisted of the right to social security as well as political rights. "More effort should be made to improve human rights in China. he said.

permanent solution.' These examples illustrate the orderly sneered. "It is useless, imbursed, at least in part, for cluding millions of migrant welfare system, even in one of she said. "It can only support the two-tiered medical system now medical costs by their employworkers, usually have to pay for the country's richest cities. operating in China. The gaping ers, unless they are unlucky INTEREST FREE OPTION ON OVER 75 PCs **HURRY! LAST FEW DAYS** KO ZY 5,000 computer products, available All the products and back-up support Specially trained staff for upgrades, iry before you buy with hands on demos and advice from our expert staff. for you to take away today. to meet your business needs. configurations and installations. **CD-ROM** STORES NATIONWIDE

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Seoul blocking food for North

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

The efforts of international agencies to prevent famine in North Korea are being hampered by the obstructions of South Korea's government, according to Western diplomats and UN officials.

North Korea suffered severe floods last summer, which inundated homes and rice fields in rural areas. An international appeal by the UN's World Food Programme (WFP) has drawn a disappointing response, generating only \$1.5m (£1m) of the \$8.8m necessary to feed half a million of the most vulnerable victims through the coldest

part of the winter. Widespread malnutrition among pregnant women and young children threatens to escalate into a famine affecting more than 2.5 million children and pregnant mothers, according to Trevor Page, the WFP's country director for North Korea.

"The government here surprised the world by asking for assistance last year," he said in Pyongyang. "They have admitted what the problem is. We have confirmed what the problem is. So where are the supplies?

In Hawaii yesterday, the US assistant secretary of state for east Asian affairs, Winston Lord, continued talks with his counterparts from Tokyo and Seoul in an attempt to answer that question.

A food crisis has serious security implications for an economically flailing Stalinist country with a million-strong army massed near the border with its rich southern neighbour. The US has said that it is willing to provide aid beyond the \$225,000 committed last year. Japan has remained cautious, although the government wishes to establish full diplomatic re-

lations with Pyongyang. The obstruction is the Seoul government, which repeated its position yesterday. "The government considers it difficult to extend any aid to North Korea as long as the North refuses to resume an official dialogue with the South and keeps up an antagonistic stance," said the Prime Minister, Lee Soo Sung.

Officials from a third country. Seoul insists, must verify the severity of the rice shortage, and ensure aid does not reach the armed forces, which are believed to have large stockpiles. Seoul has good reasons for

caution. The government of President Kim Young Sam was humiliated last year when the crew of a South Korean ship carrying part of a 150,000-ton rice donation were forced to fly a North Korean flag, and accused of spying.

But foreign observers suspect a more practical reason for South Korea's stubbornness. In April, President Kim's party faces testing parliamentary elections. A tough line against the North is considered a solid vote-winner.

IN BRIEF

German scientist fed atomic aid to Iraq

Vienna — A German nuclear scientist supplied President Saddam Hussein of Iraq with key details on uranium enrichment, central to Baghdad's secret attempt to build a nuclear bomb, an official of the International Atomic Energy Agency said. The United Nations agency uncovered fresh information about the German, who was not named, while studying papers yielded by the Iraqis following the defection of Hussein Kamel Hassam, a son-in-law of President Saddam, to Jordan last August. Rewer

Ten-year-old pregnant runaway found

Houston — Police have found Cindy Garcia, a 10-year-old runaway who is eight-and-a-half months pregnant, and her boyfriend, Pedro Sotelo, 22, in a flat. Miss Garcia fled from a youth home on Sunday. She was being held in protective custody and Mr Sotelo was arrested on a charge of aggravated sexual assault. AP

Muslim Brotherhood set to enter politics

Caire — Members of the Muslim Brotherhood, Egypt's largest fundamentalist organisation, have applied for permission to launch a political party, the brotherhood's new leader said. The party, which has 74 founding members, plans to call itself the Wasat (Centre) Party.

Cousteau's 'Calypso' back from the deep

Singapore — Jacques Cousteau's research vessel Calypso, which sank after being hit by a barge, was dragged from the murky waters off Singapore on Thursday for repairs at a local shipyard. The Calypso upped over and sank on 8 January. Cousteau plans to replace the ship with a new, state-of-the-art vessel that is under construction in France.

Bahrain arrests more dissidents

Manama — Bahrain said it has arrested another group of protesters in a widespread crackdown on anti-government activities. and is now holding 544 dissidents. An interior ministry statement said they were being held in connection with alleged sabotage and riots in several Shia Muslim villages.

Reuter

Saudi king well enough to appear on TV

Dubai — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia appeared on television for the first time since handing over power to his brother. Crown Prince Abdullah, on 1 January. Saudi Television showed the king, who suffered a stroke in November, receiving senior members of the

Ann Elwell

Wilfred Stiff

Though Wilfred Stiff worked in vived, broadened horizons and held less appeal than the toughened sinews - excellent music itself. a range of managerial positions within the classical music business over a period of more than 40 years, it is possibly his first achievement that will be remembered longest.

Fresh from active, often dangerous service with the Navy during the Second World War. he became secretary of the Liverpool Philharmonic Society in 1946. This brought responsibility as general manager for a Liv-erpool Philharmonic Orchestra facing major financial crisis, having gone full-time in the un-promising climate of 1942. when the city was a magnet for émigré London musicians. That the Philharmonic became established as one of the leading British orchestras (under the direction of the likes of Malcolm Sargent and Hugo Rignold) had much to do with Stiff's financial acumen, his determination that playing standards were central to success and, not least, his flair for artistic innovation. The relish for new ideas remained with him all his life.

Stiff's qualifications for the job in Liverpool were on paper merely those of many an amateur music lover. As a boy - educated at Tollington School in Muswell Hill, north London he was head chorister at St Alban the Martyr in High Hol-born. (Here admittedly his choirmaster was someone a little out of the ordinary - Reginald Goodall, later to conduct the premiere of Britten's Peter Grimes.) Apart from this Stiff was an avid concert-goer, a Queen's Hall devotee, but no sort of musical practitioner. The start of his working life was humdrum – as a clerk for the North Met Power Company. War, as for so many who sur-

preparation for tooth-and-nail hattles with the local Liverpool council over funding of the orchestra and financial responsibility for Philharmonic Hall. Stiff was involved in a string of innovations, inaugurating the Industrial Concerts which opened doors to new audiences (as I can testify from personal experience) and putting Prom concerts into a boxing stadium. It was Stiff who sought for the orchestra the "Royal" prefix, which was granted shortly after his departure in 1956 for new challenges in London. Beyond the Philharmonic, Stiff had a hand in the formation of the Merseyside Youth Orchestra (which was to nurture Simon Rattle) and in bringing Glyndebourne to Liv-

erpool - a coup which helped

pave the way for the concept of Glyndebourne Touring Opera. In London Stiff took the future in his own hands. Public relations in the musical field has a much longer history than we tend to assume, but Stiff was nonetheless among the new breed who saw how important PR would be in the developing world of communications, forming Wilfred Stiff Ltd, which over 10 years handled the media profiles of the likes of the pianist Gina Bachauer, the London Symphony Orchestra and the inimitable Tom Lehrer. For three years from 1968 he stepped back into the management of a performing arts organisation, becoming administrative director of the then London Festival Ballet, Once again he rescued a sinking ship, balancing the books and dou-bling audiences, but ultimately he decided the world of ballet

A chance meeting at a dinner party with a director of the London Management agency which represented a string of top actors - brought Stiff into the field of concert artist management, where he was to remain until retirement in the mid-1980s. Having developed a classical music wing to London Management through the simple expedient of buying up an existing music agency, the Wilfrid van Wyck office, Stiff then proposed acquiring lbbs & Tillett, one of the legendary names in classical music artist management. When the deal fell through at the very last mo-ment, Stiff had already moved into Ibbs and Tillett's offices at 124 Wigmore Street. So there he stayed, invited to become a company director by Emmie Tillett, widow of the firm's cofounder and one of the world's best-known managers.
This was a crucial time for the

agency. A failure to move with the times was leading to haemorrhaging of staff and of musi-cians. When Mrs Tillett handed over the business to Stiff in the late 1970s, he presided over a dramatic turn-round in management style which, if not recapturing past glories, made a rebuilding process possible. Even so, selling artists in the modern, furiously competitive fashion wasn't exactly Stiff's style. He believed that the musical grapevine would see justice done. Ever the diplomat, he was at his best as a solicitous minder looking after, in his suave way, the needs of established international artists such as Emil Gilels, Clifford Curzon, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and the Amadeus String Quartet.



the firm collapsed (amid an alltoo-public controversy over alleged financial mismanagement) four years after he had retired and handed over the reins. That retirement was dizzyingly active, whether it meant continuing to serve on the board of Trinity College of Music, supervising the development of facilities at the Ealing tennis club, dipping his toe

It was a shock to Stiff when at Brentside High School, Tennis and swimming were great passions, the former always prompting animated conversation and punditry. While not qualifying as a true raconteur, he was one of the great talkers, as I learnt early in 1978 when he phoned the shop where I was working with the offer of a job. Almost immediately the phone went dead and I returned to my tasks, expecting a call back. in local constituency politics or Several minutes later none had chairing the board of governors arrived so enquiries were made

with the switchboard. After further delay I was reconnected. Stiff was still talking. oblivious of any interruption.

Wilfred Stiff is survived by his wife and tennis-companion, the delightfully dry and wistful Susan, and three children.

Andrew Green

Wilfred Charles Stiff, music manager: born London 30 November 1918; married 1949 Susan Gill (two sons, one daughter); died London 15 January 1996.

Maj-Gen Ashton Wade

Ashton Wade's life and career advance in step with civil engicovered most of the 20th century and tremendous developments in the technology of telecommunications. One of the founder members of Royal Signals in 1921, he went on to become the senior planning engineer to the Independent Television Authority in the years 1954-60, at a time of rapid

In 1915, with the Great War in progress, his eyes were opened to the enormous future of electrical communication by his uncle Sir Capel Holden, a Gunner Brigadier and a Fellow of the Royal Society. He came to Royal Signals from the Royal Artillery, which he had joined in 1916 (being seconded to the Royal Engineers from 1918 to 1921). The war extended into 1919 and took the young Wade to Ypres, where he was wounded, Caporetto and the Italian campaign. when he was awarded an MC, and to Russia.

In 1920 he was offered a place at Cambridge. Due to the efforts of Professor F.J.M. Stratton, an outstanding wartime Chief Signal Officer, the War Office had agreed that graduate training be provided to ensure that military engineering neering: Wade took a First. He spent the remainder of the Twenties helping to build the reputation of the new corps. He moved to Catterick Camp, which became the home of Royal Signals in 1925, to instruct the Young Officer entry, and lived to see the handing over of the military garden city to the Infantry 70 years later.

After working for what be-came the Royal Engineer and Signals Board on research and design of equipment, Wade won a vacancy on the 1934 Staff College course at Camberley (fellow entrants included the geologist Ralph Bagnold), followed by staff appointments in India at GHQ in Simla, in Karachi, where much time was spent helping the victims of the great Quetta earthquake, and eventually in Quetta itself. It was always his regret that he did not spend more time in a regiment with Indian soldiers and thereby become more familiar with their

inguage and customs. Returning to England in early 1940 Wade was soon posted to France, where he took part in operations before being evacuated from Dunkirk. He was

no further Signals appointments; trained staff officers

were in short supply. The 2nd Division, which he joined as senior administrative officer, sailed for Egypt in April 1942. However events in Burma caused the ship to be diverted at Cape Town for Bombay. Wade was ordered to GHQ Delhi and promoted from colonel to major-general - one of the very few major-generals who never held the rank of brigadier. He dealt with all matters relating to British formations and soldiers then pour-

September 1944 moved to staff to carry out their own func-Madras in charge of the immense development of facilities for the invasion of Malaya, when formations freed from the war in Europe would arrive to help defeat the Japanese.

Much has been told of the preparations for D-Day in England, but because of the atom bomb and the enemy surrender similar work in India never receives attention. A further prob-lem related to RAPWI, the returned allied prisoners of war and internees, many thousands of whom were shipped into

much political activity directed at the early realisation of selfgovernment in India. The different approach of Congress and the Muslim League flashed warning of internal troubles. Early in 1946 Wade was recalled to Deihi to plan and run an all-India internal defence exercise and I was borrowed from the Indian Airborne Division as his Signals Staff Officer. The task was immense and the time short. If there were any fears of failure they were soon dispelled by discussion with our leader. He was confident, clearheaded and calm, leaving his

tions. Plainly his reputation remained high at GHQ in New Delhi as he was called up there to serve on the Indian Armed Forces Nationalisation Committee.

In a final year overseas as GOC Malaya, he faced many problems in a country that had suffered seven years of enemy occupation and was witnessing the growth of activities of Chinese Communist guerrillas. The "emergency" which was to last for 12 years had started.

On his return to England in mid-1948 Wade was told that he was to be placed on the retired list. He was 50 years old, prime time for senior management, and he was out of a job. After three dismal months of jobhunting a temporary military appointment as Chairman of the Review of War Crime Sentences (Europe) Board came his way, followed by a second at the trial of the Nazi Field Marshal Erich von Manstein, which gave him work until the end of 1950.

At this point fortune smiled. The Post Office asked the War Office to find a retired Signals officer to fill the appointment of Telecommunications Attaché at Washington. Ashton Wade

was approached. He worked in the British Embassy for six years at a time of rapid development in telecommunications; he also learned a great deal about independent television organisations. Back home this knowledge led to employment as senior planning engineer of the ITA for six years, followed by his appointment as regional officer with Anglia TV (1960-64) and at the Inter-University Research Unit, Cambridge (1965-69);

Work for the WRVS till he was 77 and then for his wife's family firm took him into his late eighties and gave him time thereafter to write an autobiography, A Life on the Line

David Horsfield

Douglas Ashton Lofft Wade, soldier and engineer: born Saffron Walden 13 March 1898; MC 1918; OBE 1941; CB 1946; Telecommunications Attaché. British Embassy, Washington 1954-60; Senior Planning Engi-neer, ITA 1954-60; Regional Officer. Anglia. ITA 1960-64; married 1926 Heather Bulmer (died 1968; one daughter), 1972 Cynthia Halliday (née Allen); died Norwich 14 January 1996.

in Welsh, arranged for this lo-

cal costume to be made for him.

Ann Glass was one of M15's conspicuous, yet suitably discreet, successes. From being a fun-loving member of "the Office" in 1940 she became a highly placed executive after the war when she replaced Anthony Blunt in Rome to read Mussolini's secret papers just after his death.

Ten years later she married a fellow MI5 officer, Charles Elwell, and they were posted to Singapore, where Ann managed to find full-time freelance work while having three children in as many years – another example of her efficiency. In 1955 the Elwells returned to base, Ann had her fourth child and only left MI5 to join the secret brainchild of the Foreign Office, the Information Research Department (IRD), which despite its catch-all title was in fact dedicated to ending Communism by any means. She made several trips for the IRD to the Middle East, her allotted territory. Although she retired officially in the late 1970s, people like her never really let go and from time to time she was asked for her expert opinion of, and/or to

write, special reports.
Young hopefuls of today who
may well be envious of her achievements might take note of the many talents that led Ann Elwell into the world of Intelligence. To start with, both her parents, Dr Robert Glass (a GP) and Eileen Smartt, were determined that their only child should be well educated, an ac-complished linguist, and a keen follower of the arts. To this end she went to Miss Faunce's (later Miss Lambert's) school in Bayswater, west London became fluent in French and German, took School Certificate (a cross between today's GCSEs and A levels) at the age of 14, and visited pre-war Germany, where her German was so good that, when she found herself alone in a hotel lift with a German, he admonished her for consorting with "those terrible

English people" - her parents. As a precocious 15-year-old, she was sent to Florence to the Misses Lestrange's famed finshing school to combine learning fluent Italian with art tours and more than a dash of social high-life. Back in London she attended the Monkey Club in Pont Street to be taught the domestic arts, the rudiments of typing, and how to behave in "Society". Somewhere along the line she added Spanish to her repertoire of languages. This somewhat rushed pro-gramme was finished off with a brief foray into acting at the Webber-Douglas drama school. Her mother then decided that her 16-year-old daughter should be a debutante; she came out at what was to be the last of the

I was an exact contemporary of Ann Glass's, going to the same children's parties and dancing school. At one of Vacani's annual dancing matinées at the Hippodrome Theatre, I have a vivid memory of her in a smart drum maiorette's uniform as leader of the Ruritanian Guard, while I had to settle for a pantomime dame's outfit as mother-in-law of the Prince. arriving on stage in a magnificent limousine of a pedal car (courtesy of Harrod's children's

London seasons, in 1939.

hairdressing department). In 1940 we were both, aged 18, inducted into MI5 as temporary wartime staff. Glass was recruited by Brigadier "Jasper" Harker, the Deputy Director-General, who had met her at a party. (Glass and a colleague were later responsible for introducing Michael Hanley to MI5 who became Director-General in 1972.) I took the less-

er secretarial route. All the government offices requiring suitable, discreet secretaries went head-hunting to the secretarial colleges. I remember being offered the Ministry of Information at £2 10s a week or the War Office at £3. Avarice won out and so it was that we met again in the labyrinthine walkways of Wornswood Scrubs prison, part of which had been requisitioned by M15. Here we were ogled by the prisoners, but the only danger was the falling glass from the glazed ceiling of the three-storey main corridor during air raids, or finding some shifty man looking up your skirt as you climbed the open metal-tread stairs. Ann Glass was soon transferred with a large section of the office to more elegant quarters at Blenheim Palace. Unlike most of the female staff, who were accommodated in makeshift dormitories at Keble College, she installed herself at the Mitre in Oxford, until her social contacts led to the Duchess of Mariborough's insisting that she live in the private part of the palace as the duchess considered it quite unsuitable for her to live

OF AS PA

unchaperoned in a hotel. Before long the remainder of MI5 moved to a newly acquired building in St James's Street. with no regrets at leaving the musty cells that had acted as scratch offices. After some time Glass returned to the London base. It was then that, with her



fluent Italian, she landed a marvellous "job" which made me (the aspiring film director) green with envy. She was given leave, at twice her salary, to be "secretary" (unofficial "watch-er") to Filippo del Giudice, the Italian film director who was acting as art director on the film Noël Coward was making at Denham, In Which We Serve. Coward had insisted that del Giudice be released from internment as an enemy alien for this job. Glass did so well that before long she was writing scripts and, as she thought, on her way to a career in filmmaking. It was not to be, for the Italian was "cleared" and no

longer needed a watcher. At the end of the war not many of the temporary female staff opted to stay on at the War Office but Glass was obviously officer material and did so. spending much time abroad. Meanwhile, her memorably sexy, deep bass voice grew ever huskier, making Marlene Diet-

rich sound like a near-soprano. Ann Elwell was highly intelligent but she was also funny and witty, an expert retailer of gossip, fundamentally kind, equally adept at dressmaking or making jam and demonstrably a good wife and mother. I don't know anyone who combines all these qualities, or indeed anyone remotely like her.

Marie-Jaqueline Lancaster

Ann Catherine Glass, intelligence officer: born London' 16
June 1922; married 1950 Charles Elwell (two sons, two daughters); died London 12 January 1996.

Professor Sir Harold Bailey

I think the origin of that interest in the Ossetic lan-Cossack-like costume of Professor Sir Harold Bailey's was slightly more romantic than described by Alan Rush Jobituary, 12 January], writes Professor Jake M. Hancock. Bailey had long had a special

guages, possibly because of their similarity to some Persian languages. During the Second World War there was a prisoner who had deserted from the Red Army to the Germans and had then been captured by the

British, and it was thought that he might be able to give useful information if only somebody could understand him. That somebody was Bailey, because the prisoner came from one of

ing into the theatre, and in

the Osset republics. When Bailey attended the

Kong became a British sovereign ter-

a and the Feast Day of St Alberic,

celebrations of Rustaveli "Georgian was one of my hobbies when I was a young-ster"), he took the opportunity to visit Ossetia. There was no university there but he introduced himself to the principal of the local equivalent of a

Hochschule. They accepted his offer to lecture on a Western view of Osset literature, delivered in the local variety of

ese lecturing on Welsh literature costume.

When the Fellows of Oueens' College commissioned a portrait of him. it was Bailey's His astonished audience, for own request that he be porit must have been like a Japan- trayed wearing his Osset

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Sharp; Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Rose, Sir John Balcombe): 23 January 1996

An undertaking to the court, not to make and sell a product "of the same design" as that which had infringed someone else's copyright, was not breached by the design and production of a new product which, though strikingly similar to the infringing design, was

not identical to it. The Court of Appeal by a majority (Sir John Balcombe dissenting) allowed an appeal by the defendant, David Sharp, trading as the David Sharp Studios, against the decision of Sir John Vinelott as a High Court judge, on 5 December 1994, that he had breached an undertaking, recorded in a consent order made by Mr Justice Millett on 21 March 1994, in settlement of an action by the plaintiffs, Haddonstone Ltd, for infringement of copy-

right. The undertaking was not to "manufacture, advertise, sell, offer or expose for sale or distribute any article of reconstructed stone of the same design" as certain ones illustrated in the defendant's brochure. The products concerned

dence that, after the consent order, he had looked through old Sotheby's catalogues of 19thcentury antique garden furniture and had found a metal urn, from a scaled-up drawing of which he had created a new mould. He produced pho-

26 January 1996

stone, a cement-based composition which can be moulded but looks, when set, like real stone. Architectural and garden ornaments can thus be made by a casting process at much lower cost than by carving solid stone. The plaintiffs claimed to

The defendant admitted all the alleged breaches of the undertaking save one. This concerned a product called the Palace Urn, his original version of which had infringed the plaintiffs State Vase design. After the consent order, the de-

what the judge called the new To the uninformed eye, the new um seemed virtually identical to the old. But the judge accepted the defendant's evi-

process, which he said took 200

hours.

defendant was entitled to manufacture an urn within the general category of the Palace Urn, which was a recognisable and common garden ornament, featuring a campanula-shaped bowl with a curved decorated rim, a central frieze, handles on each side, a lozenged base to the bowl and fluted supports. No one or combination of these features could be said to be unique fea-

tures of the plaintiffs' version. The question, which the judge answered in the affirmative, was whether the defendant had gone further and produced a design which comnined so many of the plaintiffs' features that it could be said to be in substance the same

Michael Hicks (Warren & Allen, Nottingham) for the defendant; lain Purvis (Shoosmiths & Harrison,

dertaking were "of the same design as". They were not, as they could have been, "of substantially the same design" or "of similar design." The parties had clearly chosen their words

carefully.
The new Palace Urn was not the same as the old Palace Urn. and consequently was not of the same design. This accorded with what appeared to be the intention of the parties as expressed in the order. The undertaking was to stop the defendant producing and selling those particular articles advertised in his brochure, which were produced from existing

It was irrelevant that the defendant had adopted features which resembled but were not identical to the old Palace Urn. such as the egg-and-dart round the rim, rather than smaller medallions; a similar frieze motif and similar handles. The number of eggs and darts was not the same and the top was

beaded and not plain. The judge adopted the wrong test in asking himself whether the ordinary man in the street would differentiate between them. This was not a passing off action or infringement of a registered design. If the plaintiffs had wished to extend the scope of the under-

taking they could have done so. Paul Magrath, Barrister

Births. Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

NICHOLS: Kenneth John Heastey On 24 January, peocefully at King Ed-ward VII Hospital for Officers. Beloved husband of Pamela and dearly loved father, grandfather and friend. Private family funeral. Thanks-giving service to be announced later.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

DUFF: A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mary Geraldine Duff will be held at Great St Mary's Church, Cambridge, on Saturday 13 April at 11 3 Juny

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births Adoptions, Marriages, Dentis, Memo-rial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independen to use therete faitor, the throspendent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette annonnements (notices, functions, Forth-coming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or listed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Prince of Wales, President, the Prince's Trast, opens the new Venture Centre, Cromford Derbydown and as President, Baslinea in the Com-munity, were the project undertaken by the Ark-wright Society at Cromford Mill.

Changing of the Guard The Household Caralin Mounted Regiment moting the Queen's Life Guard's Horse Guards, Hang 7 Company Coldswam Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Backingham Palace, 11 30am, foard provided by the Scote Guards

Birthdays

Commander-in-Chief, Naval Home Command, 71: Mr Timothy Clifford, Director, National Galleries of Scotpelli, jazz violinist, 88: Mr Chri chairman, Singer and Friedlander, 66; Sir Charles Tidbury, former chair-

Television, 54.

Births: Claude Adrien Helvetius, Charles George Gordon, general, killed at Khartoum 1885; Edward G. Sydney, Australia, was founded by Governor Arthur Phillip, 1788; Hong

Mr Ronald Allison, journalist and broadcaster, 64; Mr Michael Bentine,

humorist and writer, 74; Admiral Sir Desmond Cassidi, former land, 50; Mr Martin Dunn, Editorn-chief, the New York Daily News, 41; Mr Jules Feiffer, playwright and cartoonist, 67; Mr Stephane Grappher Hampton, playwright, 50; Mr Kim Hughes, cricketer, 42; The Right Rev David Jenkins, former Bishop of Durham, 71; Miss Eartha Kitt, singer, 68; Mr Simon Langdale, ormer Headmaster, Shrewsbury School, 59; Miss Joan Leslie, actress, 71; Mr Paul Newman, actor, 71; Miss Veronica Owen, former Headistress, Malvern Girls' College, 71: Mr Christopher Price, Principal Emeritus, Leeds Metropolitan University, 64; Mr Andrew Ridgeley, singer, 33; Mr Anthony Solomon man, Whithread and Co, 70; Mr Nigel Walmsley, chairman, Carlton UK

Anniversaries

philosopher and encyclopaedist. 1715; Ugo (Niccolo) Foscolo, poet, 1778: Douglas MacArthur, general, 1880; Jacqueline du Pré, cellist, 1945. Deaths: Edward Jenner, physician, discoverer of vaccination, 1823; Robinson (Emmanuel Goldenberg), actor, 1973: Nelson Aldrich Rockefeller, statesman, 1979. On this day:

ritory, 1841; the Rugby Union was founded, 1871; the first official Boy Scout troop - the First Glasgow - was formed, 1908; Hindi was made the official language of India, 1965. To-day is Australia Day, Republic Day, India and the Feast Day of St Alberic

St Conan of Man, St Eystein, St Margaret of Hungary, St Paula, St Thordgith or Theorigitha of Barking, St Timothy and St Titus. Lectures National Gallery: Grant Rogers, "Looking Forwards (iv): Cezanne, The Painter's Father, Louis-Auguste Cézanne", Ipm. Tate Gallery: Lubaina Himid, "Be-tween the Two my Heart is Bal-

anced, lpm. Gresham College, Barnard's fron Hall, London EC1: Professor Heather Couper, "Quasars and Exploding Galaxies", 1pm.

Luncheons British Council Sir John Hanson, Director-General, British Council, hosted a luncheon yesterday at the British Council. London SW1, in honour of Professor S.S. Saidkasimov, Deputy Prime

Minister, Republic of Uzbekistan.

Receptions

HM Government Mrs Gillian Shepherd MP. Secretary of State for Education and Employment, welcomed the guests at a reception held yesterday evening at Lancaster House. London SWI, in honour of the US Fulbright students, scholars and fellows in Britain. Mr William J. Crowe Jnr. US Ambassador, also spoke.

Dinners HMS Victory

Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command hosted a dinner yesterday evening on board the flagship HMS 17ctory, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth. Among those present were the Right Rev Francis almsley, Bishop of the Forces, and Judge John Sessions, Judge Advocate

Institute of Physics

Sir Arnold Wolfendale, President, Institute of Physics, presided at the In-stitute's Annual Awards Dinner held vesterday evening at the Savov Ho-tel, London W1. Lord Flowers was the principal guest and speaker.

Pattenmakers' Company The Duke of Gloucester, Patron, Pattenmakers' Company, attended the Annual Livery Banquet of the Com-

pany held yesterday evening at the Mansion House, London EC4. The Duke presented the Pattenmakers' Company's Young Manager Devel-opment Awards for 1996 to Mr R.J. weethbe and Miss S.L. White, Mr A.D. Miller, Master, presided. The Lord Mayor of London, Mr John Chalstrey, and the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Chalstrey, were also present.

Synagogue services Details of synagogue services to be

held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Subbath begins in London at 4.24pm. United Synagogues: 0171-387 4300. Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1663. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2573. New Los

LAW REPORT

be the exclusive licensee of copyrights subsisting in the designs of a range of such products.

> fendant started to manufacture Palace Urn.

were made of reconstituted tographs showing the whole

It was not disputed that the

moulds.

design,

Northampton; for the plaintiffs. Lord Justice Stuart-Smith said that the key words of the un-

Virtuous promoter of good works or Washington's Lady Macbeth, engaged in a cover-up Nixon would have been proud of? As Rupert Cornwell reports, Hillary Clinton's evidence to a grand jury today on the Whitewater affair will only add to the confusion about her

the As Hill Clinton was many his State of the Union was my his State of the Union was no Tuesday. In Geparted the terr to calogise his wife, ng up to the gallery where she the rival attraction of the ning thanks to her latest missister. advening thanks to ber latest mis-adventures. His eyes missy his his clouched the President praised a wonderful wife, a magnificent mother, and a great Pinst Lady Hillary Choon's expression did not change; not a trace of a tear, not even a nod of schemelodge. mens, just a steely gaze. Yes, it seemed to say, this lady is tengh, she can take care of horself. Today she will deed to do exactly that, Never before has the wife of

a sitting president been summoned a sitting president been summoned before a grand jury. The expensions is unnerving, even for a formulable lawyer such as Mrs Clintop. A grand jury does not deliber verders, instead in 23 jurois decide whether charges should be brought. Hillsiny Character should be brought Hillsiny Character is "target", meaning that the independent. Whitewater counsel Keineth Staft is not considering indicting her—for now it lesst. Starindicting her—for now it least. Store has been investigating the White-water affair, in which the Cintons are alleged to have been involved in a property transaction in part-nership with the owner of a bank

of those moments that that later collapsed. She will have so the Linion to questions from Start and the jury. This day, he departed that the collapse his wife, even to approach a grand juror othe gallery where she Exactly what Mrs Clinton may mave done wrong is unclear. Maybe, at she insists, she is guilty of nothing. But in the mist of forgy mirrors, that is, the Whitewater. affair, that is scarcely the point.
What is more interesting is that a woosen so beamoing with political savey has made such a hash of handling the affair. That stambolic record culminated in the latest abstraity, when documents sought

> How has a woman so brimming with intelligence

> > made such a hasb of the affair?

coon used every day in the White-

House family quarters.

As much as her husband, Hillary.
Chaton is: fodder for annichair psychologists, "Saint or Sinner" asked Weapsweek in a recent cover story, wondering which was the real Hillary, the treates promoter of women's and children's caused who ment's and children's caused who ment's a finching menther hard. who wrote a book on motherhood and children; or Washington's own. Lady Macbeth? Is she a virtuous doer of good works, a First Lady with the courage to go so Peking and condenn Chus, for human rights abuses; or the greeny baby-

vring to bring about the shameful (though perfectly legal) sacking of the White House travel office staff. It was alleged they had sulmanaged funds; their defenders say they were victims of a vendelta by the Climons.

That 23 May, Hillary attanced media cammission, pictured on the control file New York Three may color of the New York Tower may again in an outlit of Supinal White. Same Hillary the article was beadinged. More prescher than pointician, the Tinst Lady seem to earth was swit. Iwo months later Vince Fosser, the deputy. White House counsel, committing succide, in part from deputysion at the travel office debaces and the deep-ening controvers over Whitewater. ening controversy over Whitewater. Foster had been a fellow partner at the Rose law from in Little Ruch, and at the White House keeper of Hillary's private legal affairs. Instanting, Ms Clinton's accesses mass; those papers so mysteriously rediscovered this mosth.

Some say they had been lovers. Asked by ABC's Barbara Watters if they were yo. Win Chinton list not.

if that were so, Mrs Clinton this not answer firecity—only heightening billings of her legal work in the the belief that the key to the rid-1980s junted up in a box in a work die of Mrs Clinton's behaviour. over Whitewater may lie in her relationship with Mr Foster. Shortly after Poster's death details emerged of a \$100,000 speculation on cattle futures by a woman so fond of lambasting the Republicans "Politics of Greed" during the 1980s. Then her health plan falled ignomistantly in Con-gress, that comented her reputa-

tion as an arrogant proposent of Big. Government Knows Best. Briefly she retired from the time-light, though her influence on her dier of good works a First Lady with the courage to go to Peking and condena Chora. To human rights abuses, or the greetly deby becomes who used her cornects to make an insider a killing in earth intuges insider a killing in earth intuges insiders killing in earth intuges insiders killing in earth pounced Nizon over Vessengate or a villain engaged in a Nizonan cover up other own? Onte passibly, the answer wall of the shores by the answer wall of the shores her angles of the shores her angles of several of the shores in the course of backer of shores in her year at Yale Law who are stands by the many least at Yale Law who are stands by the many least at Yale Law who into stands by the many between the angles of the shores in the was semistimmental as he in the checking reference that perhaps several persons. Right non, that persons is not the sampage.

In the White House she has prevent and beginned as the interest and beginned as the character from the course of the sampage.

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In the White House she has been a checked in the course of the sampage.

In the White House she has been a career woman who could have been a Cabinet who could have been a Cabi

been no jesta desing frate. Untill:

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communal Past Wing sho took on
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All the president's ladies

ound the time that Jackie World War. But the First

osevelt (1884 962) who fun-

Lyndon built a substantial

years and has five daughters She manages the family farm

Tiffanie Darke



Kill me again, please

I'd thought that Judge Argyle, he of the Oz Trial and many subsequent controversies, had local paper, The Newark Advertiser, proves me wrong.

Reminiscing about his late

father, a distinguished solicitor, he mentions. en passant, that the old boy, who had a fear of being buried alive in his coffin, ordered his four sons to plunge a long, sharp knife into his dead body.

He says the recent case of the woman found alive in a hospital mortuary reminded him of his father's death in



Generation Why

by Tony Reeve and Steve Way

IT'S BEEN TWO DAYS NOW THAT WE'VE BEEN TRYWG TO

COME UP WITH A GOOD IDEA TO SELL EUROPE TO

A RELUCTANT PUBLIC.

1965. "He served through both world wars seeing a lot of action. A man not easily alarmed or frightened, he had a horror, based on his experi-ence, of being buried alive. [He witnessed] the reopening of a coffin to reveal the torn lost the power to shock. But a nails and bloodstained fingers letter from His Honour to his and the scratch marks on the nails and bloodstained fingers wood inside; the fate of soldiers in trenches, overwhelmed by an avalanche of earth caused by heavy gunfire; the fate of Royal Navy and merchant navy crews in ships or submarines sent to the bottom.

order his four sons, of whom I was the eldest, to plunge a long, sharp knife into his dead

A request no dutiful son with a flourishing career at the Old Bailey could ignore. But, sadly for Judge Argyle, he was unable to follow his father's last wishes. The undertaker had nailed down the lid of the

Dark days

Good to see that the West End will soon be graced by two famous titles. Willis Hall's 1959 army-based play The Long And The Short And The Tall has just opened at the Brixton Shaw

ROLF

ROLE

AND WE'VE

GOT NOTHING TO

SHOW FOR IT

Theatre, and is to transfer to the West End. And Simon Callow is directing a new musical version of the French classic the Royal Shakespeare Company next week. The film ran for a dazzling three hours 40 minutes. Callow's expensive production is clocking up fourand-a-half hours at the first previews. One exhausted theatre-goer tells me that emerging into the dark, silent streets around the Barbican a few minutes before midnight, with the last train chugging away in the distance, was in itself a piece of Theatre of

e bottom. "All these caused him to Polite knock

It strikes me that the media's current fascination with a certain seven words - namely



Hello! and Viscountess Linley doesn't go to government sherry parties.

those allegedly said by the Princess of Wales to Tiggy



Hair equality

countess Linley.

Legge-Bourke – is misguided.

What I would much rather

know, if we're talking about

Royal off-the-cuff remarks, is

what Viscountess Linley, Princess Margaret's daughter-

in-law said to Sandra Howard,

the Home Secretary's wife

when she crashed her Range

Rover into Mrs Howard's Ford

Scorpio the other day during a

It is quite clear from a wit-

ness's statement that cross

words were exchanged. (Appar-

ently Viscountess Linley even

refused to issue Mrs Howard

with her home address and

surname (laughably, given the

status of Mrs Howard's hus-

band) "for security reasons".

Neither did the ladies recognise

each other. This reflects credit

on both of them. Mrs Howard

clearly doesn't bother to read

"My wife would never be rude," commented Viscount

Linley afterwards. So how then

do we think the conversation went? No doubt, "So sorry,

that you crashed into me" from

Mrs Howard and "So sorry to be such a nuisance" from Vis-

West End shopping trip.

New Labour, old Labour, they're all hald to me. At the Spitting Image's production studios the 22-year-old puppet co-ordinator on the programme was



One of those politicians

asked to fetch the puppet of Arthur Scargill from the store-house. "I don't know what Arthur Scargill looks like," the fortunate young woman told producer Giles Pilbrow. "You can't miss him," retorted Pilbrow. "He's an old, balding left-wing Labour politician with a grubby grey suit - he's in the third-floor puppet room."

The puppet co-ordinator lis-tened carefully. Alas, to no avail. When she returned she was carrying ... Neil Kinnock.

Ladies who lamb

No comment: Headline from a Department of Health press release: "Advice To Pregnant Women During Lambing."

Eagle Eyei



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Leaving peace in the lurch

Forty-eight hours ago, the political deadlock in Northern Ireland was about to to be broken. Senator George Mitchell's report outlined six commitments that would push Sinn Fein irrevocably into non-violent politics, without the IRA immediately handing over its arms. The report was widely greeted as a diplomatic masterpiece, requiring everyone to compromise a little, but in return sharing out the fig leaves for everyone to hide behind. It seemed the controversy over when the paramilitaries should hand in their arms, which has dogged the peace process for months, had been resolved. All-party talks at last looked possible. The tension that had built up over 17 months of peace, but with little progress to a lasting settlement, was set to ease.
Sadly, that is not how it has turned out.

Instead, the British and Irish governments are at loggerheads. The ugly nationalist-Unionist divide - with Dublin on one side squaring up to London on the other - has re-emerged after a decade of Anglo-Irish co-operation. No one can be sure how the hardliners within the IRA will respond.

The problem is that out of the blue on Wednesday John Major (to the surprise even of his counterpart in Dublin) made the creation of an elected Northern Ireland assembly the centrepiece of his response to Mitchell. That sounds harmless enough, but three previous attempts to create such assemblies either turned into vehicles for Unionist domination or collapsed in sectarian bitterness. As Mr Major made his announcement, faith in him among nationalists north and south of the Irish border evaporated. The Prime Minister may feel that nationalists have over-reacted but he has to prove their sus-

picions wrong.

The Prime Minister may have found a clever and as yet unthought of way of getting talks going, if slightly later than expected. By dropping the Government's pre-condition that arms should be decommissioned before talks can start, he has opened the door to Sinn Fein. By accepting the Unionists' proposal for an elected body, he has made it impossible for them to stay away from all-party talks, even if these must now be delayed until the summer to allow time for elections.

As yet the role of the proposed assembly is unclear. Dublin might come round to the idea if the elections were simply a way to select a group of negotiators rather than - as the Unionists would like - an oldstyle assembly dominated by them which could take votes on issues of policy.

But as long as the Prime Minister fails to make his intentions clear, Dublin will suspect the worst. The Irish government fears that Britain has suddenly lurched away from seeing the Anglo-Irish relationship as the rock upon which a politi-cal settlement will be built. Many nationalists think that Mr Major, mindful of his tiny Commons majority, is in the pocket of David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader. They suspect that British initiatives are now designed to delay rather than enable political progress so that Mr Major can cling to power.

This depressing conclusion may well be mistaken given Mr Major's commitment to peace in Northern Ireland. But the Prime Minister now has a great deal to do to convince a large slice of increasingly sceptical opinion that he is still acting in

Teachers' pay is the first lesson

We've missed the point, it seems. methods should change, too. Studies by the NIESR show that our more successriet Harman's choice of a secondary ful Continental counterparts concenschool for her son we have overlooked some fundamental questions. Children's education is in trouble long before they reach the gates of the local comprehensive. That is the only conclusion that can be drawn from the first test results for 11year-olds published yesterday. Half of England's 11-year-olds are failing the Government's tests for numeracy and literacy, which, for instance, include spelling

words such as "question" and "gently". We should be wary of reading too much into these results. Schools will become better at preparing children for the tests. Even without significant changes in the quality of education, the test results may improve considerably over time.

Despite that caveat, the evidence overall is not good. Government inspectors have long identified the education of seven to 11-year-olds as the weak link in the school system. Take just one telling comparison: research by the National Institute for Economic and Social Research (NIESR) shows that English children are up to two years behind their Swiss counterparts in maths in spite of spending 18 months longer at school.

The most serious problems lie in the nature and content of teaching. An overloaded national curriculum - as the Education Secretary, Gillian Shephard, yesterday admitted - leaves insufficient time for teaching basic skills. She has promised to pare it back. But teaching

Yesterday I brought you an extract from a new opera about Welsh

rugby entitled 'Trisian und Gareth'. It told the story of two boys, Tristan and

Gareth, who both taste success early

on in the Welsh Schoolboys XV. How-

ever, they react to success in very dif-

ferent ways - Tristan determines to

make rughy his career, while Gareth

thinks he will just have a good time in

the bar after the match, making friends

with everyone. Tristan goes north and

becomes a star in Rugby League, while Gareth goes to the bad and

becomes a Welsh selector ... Encour-

aged, I feel disposed to bring you unother extract from this seminal

ACT TWO. Scene one takes us to a

meeting of the Welsh Rugby selectors,

who have gathered in the upstairs

room of a big pub, the Pont Talbot De

Luxe Business and Conference Arms.

The meeting is called to order by

a man called Barry Davies, who is the

Barry: All right, lads, have we all got

a pint? OK. then, down to business.

There's only one item on the agenda.

Barry: Yes. How to beat England at

Gary: Blimey, I thought we had dis-

chairman.

Ceri: Only one?

cussed this before?

Twickenham.

trate on teaching the whole class together rather than on individualised or group learning. Their emphasis on mental arithmetic, repetition and rote learning is more successful than allowing children to discover mathematical patterns for themselves.

The other crucial factor is the quality of teachers and the way they are managed. With thousands of qualified teachers leaving the profession early every year, and a high proportion of those that stay on demoralised, it is not surprising that children are not acquiring basic skills.

Perhaps the Department for Education should take a little advice from Adair Turner, the director-general of the CBI, who yesterday stressed that businesses had to invest in staff and pay them well. Successful schools, just like successful businesses, need a culture that encourages and rewards performance. The only way to turn teaching into the high status, well-respected profession that schoolchildren and parents need is to increase the rewards for good teachers and to remove

those who prove unable to do the job.

Extra cash for junior schools means something else will have to give – possibly higher education, which could be partly funded through a graduate tax. If at the end of this week the only thing that everyone is agreed upon is that we should improve the quality of education for all our children, then rewarding good teachers well is the probably the best place to start.

MILES KINGTON

Barry: We discuss this every time. It

is business held over. It is a recurring

item. It is perennial agenda. It is a

semi-permanent sore in the Welsh

psyche. It is a chronic cross we all have

Ceri: Come off it, Barry! No need for

the old Welsh gift of the gab here! The

English may be impressed by it, but

it cuts no ice in the valleys. Barry: All right, fair enough. But any

ideas on how to beat England? Or

anyone, come to that? Just to refresh

your memory, here are some methods

we have tried in the past. We tried

playing Paul Thorburn and Rupert

Gary: What was the point of that?

Barry: Well, the idea was that if we

played people with such obviously

English names as Thorburn and

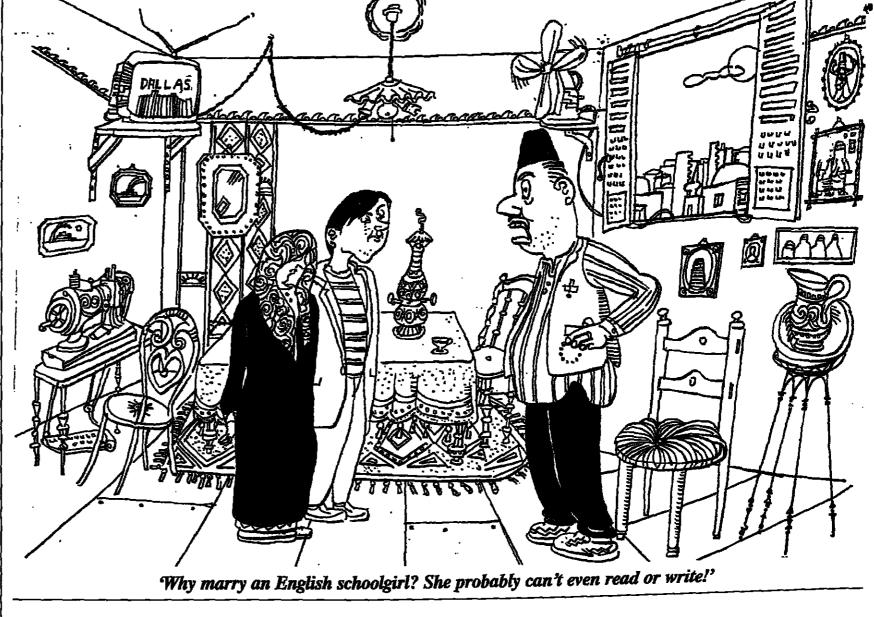
Moon, the English would challenge

us to prove that they had any Welsh

blood, and be totally embarrassed by

to bear ...

Moon



- LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

Private provision not needed to defuse the pensions 'time bomb' | Sex, Sugar and

From Professor Peter Townsend Sir: The scaremongering of the Anson Report about a pensions "time-bomb" ("Call for action on pensions 'time bomb' ", 24 Jan-uary) must be dismissed. The Government Actuary and independent researchers have demonstrated that henceforth Britain will experience a slower rate of increase in the elderly population than all other members of the EU except Portugal.

The Department of Social Security has had to revise substantially downwards its estimates of rising costs issued only two years ago. The Government Actuary shows that after the introduction of the 1995 Pensions Act, there will need to be, on present assumptions, virtually no increase in existing rates of contribution to national insurance.

What matters in planning a strategy more than the ageing of the population is the premature retirement of people of active employment age, the problem of in their own living standards getting more young people into because of the exigencies of work, and the poor opportunities redundancy, unemployment, for women to get secure employfor women to get secure employ-

Return to hell?

From The Rev Derek Matten

Sir. Let the Church decide

whether there is a hell or not; the

question is, how to get there?
Any railway buff knows that,
to reach the Kingdom of

Heaven (Himmelreich station), one must take the Hell Valley

Railway (Höllentalbahn) from

Freiburg in Breisgau in south-

west Germany.
I should know: I lived and

worked for 12 years beyond both

Heaven and hell, in Hinterzarten

in the Black Forest. One might

have had to go through hell to get

there, but it was a heavenly place

Sir: I was glad to note that sev-

eral of your contributors have 23 January

Yours faithfully,

DEREK MATTEN

22 January

From the heart of the scrum, an aria

Ringmore, Devon

finding that they were indeed

Barry: No. In fact, the English

adopted the idea themselves and

started picking players with Welsh names, like Dewi Morris.

Gary: And Irish names, like Kieran

Barry: Right. So, anyone got any ideas

Cometh the hour, Cometh the man.

Ceri: Only the same one as usual.

(All selectors join in the chorus.)

O come back to help us,

Don't walk - we'll hire

If it's money you want

But come back, come.

- You're the only one

For God's sake come back,

Who can possibly save us!!

(They stop singing and all listen.

If anyone can save us,

Gary: Did it work?

for saving Wales?

Jonathan can!

Jonathan Davies,

We beg of you

Come back, please!

On bended knees!

Jonathan Davies!

A limo from Avis!

Just name a sum,

All in used fivers,

Jonathan Davies

There is no answer.)

(He sings.)

From Mr J. Gwyn Griffiths

ment at reasonable rates of pay. It is government cuts in the basic retirement pension and in the additional state earnings retirement pensions scheme which have brought impoverishment to pensioners and prospective pensioners alike and must be stopped. Except for top executives British levels of pension are already bottom of the European heap.

Yet Sir John Anson's committee produce recommendations that will worsen the already deteriorating situation of many elderly and prospective elderly. The committee was sponsored by the National Association of Pension Funds. That is a vested interest. Not surprisingly, it pro-poses to expand "funding" at the expense of pay-as-you-go (PAYG) state schemes.

This will only widen the gap already deepening between prosperous and poor pensioners. and it will increase the vulnerability of prosperous younger ms to catastrophic collaps

welcomed the Church of Eng-

land's revised views of heil. Its

report refers to "appalling the-

ologies which made God into a

This is no empty tirade. A

trenchant example is given by

Augustine of Hippo, author of

The City of God. He was able to

recognise that torment in a fiery

hell could not last for ever, since

it was biologically impossible. In

his City of God (21. 9. 47-8) he

argued that the problem could be

solved, since the ability of bodies

to endure this torment for ever is

"a miracle of the most omnipo-

Here is a piece of exquisitely

subtle sadism which is ascribed to

sadistic monster".

tent Creator".

God himself.

Swansea

beer money.

he Welsh?

minute drop goal.

we think of it before?

them has ever worked.

Yours faithfully

J. GWYN GRIFFTTHS

and Ancient History

University of Wales

Barry: Well, it was worth trying.

Gareth: If I may make a suggestion... Barry: Gareth! What a surprise!

You've never spoken before. We thought you were just here for the

Gareth: Well, yes, I am, basically, but

I just wondered if you had thought of

Barry: The star of Rugby League? Is

Gareth: Oh, yes - he's an old mate of

if he was drafted into the side, played

a blinder, shimmied through for two

or three tries and then scored the win-

ning points at Twickenham with a last-

Barry: What a great idea. Why didn't

Alum: We've had lots of great ideas

before, Barry. It's just that none of

Barry: Well, it's our last chance.

Don't forget that if we come bottom

again, we could be replaced in the

(They all sink into total gloom. The

ghost of JPR Williams passes by out-

side the window, openly weeping.)

And so on, and so on. Incidentally, this

would be a VERY cheap opera to put

on, so if Jeremy Isaacs wants to get in

touch, he knows where to find me.

home championships by Italy.

nine. I just thought it might be nice

oicking Tristan Jones ...

Department of Classics

ing their working lives. PAYG makes economic sense as well as social sense for the

mass of the population. Higher national insurance contributions can boost national savings. They can provide collective benefits as a form of rights to assist the transition to work. Risks can be pooled at small administrative cost. Instead of paying through the nose for funded schemes, with very high administrative costs and profits, poor accountability, greater likelihood of multinational takeover and relatively poor coverage for unpredictable adversities, individuals can share the costs and benefits of a national scheme, and come to see they have a stake in society and not just themselves. That is eminently affordable, and it is tragic that the Anson Committee failed to address the evidence.

Yours etc. PETER TOWNSEND mėntus Proi Social Policy) University of Bristol

Unromantic Jane

From Mr Avner Offer Sir: Harnish McRae writes ("Now we can see how old age looks", 24 January):

I do not think we trust governments sufficiently to give them more of our money.

I agree. But do we trust private pension providers any more than the Government? The recent records of some of them are just

Dependence on the private sector is not the same as selfreliance. We do not have sufficient information to select a private provider. Once we make our choice, we become its captives. And if government is to guarantee our private pensions, then we are in the hands of government once again, and private providers have even greater licence to take liberties with our money.

The problem of old age provi-sion is even more difficult than it Yours sincerely. AVNER UFFER Reader in Recent Social and Economic History Nuffield College

underage girls

From Mr Peter Luff, MP Sir: I was disappointed to read Joanne Elvin's article "Some advice on sex and hunks" (24 January). She claims that her magazine. Sugar, by offering practical sexual advice to young girls such as Sarah Cook, now illegally married to a Turk, can help make them more comforted

and reassured. In fact it is precisely magazines such as Sugar, by persuading girls that they are only really fulfilled human beings if they are sexually active at a young age, which con-tribute to tragedies such as that

On the face of it, Ms Elvin's argument may look plausible. but it is misleading. While no one is arguing for ignorance, most people feel girls of 12 and 13 should not be taught the details of masturbation and oral sex, and that they should not be encourea to maa personal through promiscuity.

If anyone is in any doubt, I invite them to go out and buy the February edition of Sugar and read it for themselves. Their doubts will be quickly dispelled. Yours faithfully, PETER LUFF

MP for Worcester (Con) House of Commons London, SW1 24 January

From Mrs Valerie Riches Sir. There has been an understandable shock-and-horror reaction about the "marriage" of a 13year-old girl to an 18-year-old young man, an arrangement apparently approved by her parents. The authorities consider the matter to be so serious that the girl is deemed to be in need of the care and protection of the

courts. In this country, the Government has a policy of providing "protection" to girls under the age of consent (16) in the form of free condoms, the Pill and post-coital contraception, in many cases behind the backs of their parents. In the year 1993-94, the number of under 16-year-old attenders at family planning clinics amounted to 37,000, an increase of 37 per cent over the previous year. These girls are subjects of unlawful sexual intercourse and are, arguably, in less stable relationships than the 13year-old girl in question. To be consistent, there should be outrage about their plight - but not a whisper of concern about them. Yours sincerely. VALERIE RICHES

Director Family and Youth Concern Oxford 25 January

In fact, neither bank is Britain's oldest. Although it is difficult to determine when a jeweller who did a bit of banking on the side became a banker who did a bit of jewellery on the side, most observers agree that Child & Co, with business records dating back to 1585, was providing banking services decades before the other two. Yours faithfully, ALWYN JAMES

The Royal Bank of Scotland London, EC1 23 January

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@ independent.co.uk) Letters may

Millennial options

From Ms Christine Kenyon Jones From Mr William Barras Sir: Rhoda Koenig claims (Another View: "Why puritan America just loves Jane Austen", Sir: Peter Price (letter, 23 January) proposes that Greenwich is the "only place where the whole world could celebrate the millen-23 January) that Austen's dialogue is "free of allusions to such arcana nium", because it lies on the 0 as the poetry of Byron". In fact, degree meridian. I seem to Anne Elliot and Captain Benwick remember from Graham Swift's discuss Byron's and Walter Scott's Waterland that another town lies on the same line. Why not forget poetry in *Persuasion*, lightly satirising Byron's orientalism as they both Birmingham and Greenwich and hold the exhibition in puzzle over the unpronounceability of The Giaour. Cleethorpes instead? As far as I am aware, Scott's Yours faithfully, and Byron's is the only English WILLIAM BARRAS "Romantic" poetry to be men-tioned in the novels. Austen pre-Edinburgh

24 January

ferred the older generations, particularly William Cowper, and From Mr David Kinsey Benwick's partiality for Scott and Sir. As the millennium is a cele-Byron is used to indicate his bration of the anniversary of the rather shallow sentimentality, birth of Jesus Christ, it seems a which leads him to form an attachtouch bizarre to want to build ment to Louisa Musgrove while he is still apparently in deep new mosques and temples. What possible interest can atheists and mourning for his previous fiancee. people of non-Christian faiths Which all goes to show the acuteness of Austen's social have in these celebrations. Yours sincerely, DAVID KINSEY

Sir: I agree with the Prince of

Wales that we should not waste

our lottery millennium money on

a useless party but should invest

the money in a more meaningful

and useful manner for the bene-

fit of society, or perhaps for the

But why waste the money on

religious buildings, especially

those of minority religions, which

further deter their adherents

from assimilation with the bulk of

this country's population?

Forte for Latin

Sir: Perhaps in the light of a

recent business takeover, some

change needs to be made to an

old schoolboy tag: Caesar adsum

From The Rev Andrew

Hereford

most needy.

Yours truly,

Edgar Mehl

25 January

McLuskey

am Granada.

Church

Surrey

23 January

Yours faithfully

South Croydon,

ANDREW H. MCLUSKEY

St Paul's United Reformed

London, NW8

vision, even when applied to matters literary. Yours faithfully, CHRISTINE KENYON JONES London, SW4 23 January

Bank on it ...

Sir: On the first page of your round-up of Britain's private banks last week, you claimed that Courts was the oldest British bank. On the second page, you gave its founder date as 1692 and

that of Hoare & Co as 1672.

25 January From Mr Edgar Mehl

From Mr Alwyn James

Head of Internal Communications

be edited for length and clarity.

Maxwell's match

From Mr A. R. Godfrey Sir: While agreeing with your assessment of Maxwell as a thief, liar and bully (leading article, 20 January), you are incorrect when you say no one confronted him. The print unions did in no uncertain fashion. I know, I was there.

One occasion, which lingers pleasantly in my memories of Holborn, was when a chapel meeting was being held by the machine minders in their lockerroom and Maxwell hammered on the door demanding entry as #; "the building's owner" and was told to "piss off back to Czecho-slovakia". Yours sincerely.

A. R. GODFREY Bexhill on Sea, East Sussex 20 Јапиагу



Real cops never had it so good

Why would the police want to spoil their reputation with accuracy? asks David Aaronovitch

There's nothing that TV drama producers enjoy more than a little persecution. To be pressurised by the authorities, or criticised by the establishment, lends a real cachet to one's work. One becomes a "dangerous" or a "controversial" artist rather than a plodding journeyman in the world of mass entertainment.

So it isn't so surprising that an innocuous internal Home Office document, suggesting that the police might be a little more agile in selling their successes to the public, has been received by some producers as though they were actors in a remake of Darkness at Noon. "Preposter-ous", thundered Gub Neal of Cracker fame, upon hearing that a guide was to be prepared for people such as he to (as the document puts it) "ensure that such programmes are factually accurate and to give contact points for briefing and queries". Anonymous producers apparently vowed to resist Home Office guidelines, doubtless thrilled by the prospect of being carted away to some damp compound in the Mendips, unused since the last war, with even one's mobile phone confiscated.

It's all nonsense of course, as the long-suffering Home Office press officer, Rob Smith, wearily explained to me. In a long document about how to tell the "good news" about crime and

detection to the punters, there had been one paragraph mentioning TV drama, suggesting that it be made eas-ier for producers with queries (like what kind of food is served in police canteens, or whether chief constables keep booze in their offices) to discover

the truth from the people who know.

I see (I said), it's just facts you're interested in. Not propaganda? Perish the thought, said Rob. We just want people to know about how we're heating crime, to give information about our successes and thus to "dissuade criminals" from their activities.

Er, so it is propaganda then, I said. You want to sell a line calculated both to reassure the public and to suggest to lawbreakers that crime doesn't pay. That's why you concentrate on good news stories. If the stories were bad, you wouldn't tell us, partially because (according to your logic) thieves, muggers and burglars would all feel emboldened.

Rob sighed. "You're reading too much into this." he replied. "Crime is falling. End of story. We want to inform the public as to what the situation is and who is responsible for it." (Michael Howard has, of course, already told everyone that he is. But I didn't say this). "We're just talking about facts"

And he's got a point. TV cop drama is grossly inaccurate. There really is no ered. Oh, and the police had lots of sex

resemblance between it and any char-acter or situation, living or dead. Con-sider the shows that litter our schedules: Morse, Wexford, Backup, Touch of Frost, and so on. When did David Jason last harass some poor bloody motorist for driving two yards in a bus lane, forcing him to produce his documents at a run-down police station, manned only by an absent-minded teenager? When have Morse's men ever mown down a pedestrian in a siren-wailing paddy-wagon on their

When have Morse's men ever mown down a pedestrian on their way to get a take-out?

way to get a take-out at the Win Wah? lever, that's when.

And it is incredible that there is any crime in this country, given the low state of criminal morale that must be occasioned by watching these shows. Last night saw the debut of Carlton's Thieftakers. Every single criminal featured in it was caught, the really bad guy was killed (it was his own fault, of course) and all the money was recov-

- but that happens in hospital dramas, too. For Taggart to be accurate the programme's 100 per cent clear-up rate should be nearer the Scottish norm of just over a third.

I put this to one of our leading cop dramatists, Michael Chapman, executive producer of The Bill. "I don't know what clear-up rates are," he admitted, "but I'm sure that Sun Hill's are an improvement on the real ones."
But why doesn't be give the public the truth, as Rob Smith would like? Because I wouldn't have an audience. People expect our stories to be positive and conclusive. Crime, investigation and capture - and all in 24 min-utes and 30 seconds."

But doesn't this mean that all his officers are more effective, more powerful somehow than their real counterparts? "Yes. When we cast an episode, or appoint a regular, we're looking for qualities of personality and charisma that ring the bell. I'm not sure that all 28,000 members of the Metropolitan Police possess these qualities." And it works for Mr Chapman - 15 million viewers tuned in for last Friday's instalment of The Bill, watching infallible coppers collar doomed wrongdoers.

The truth is that, with the rare exception of series like Between The Lines (which focused on fictional corruption), the police get a very good ride out of TV drama, and would suffer badly if more verisimilitude were used. Like vets and country doctors (to whom TV policemen seem often to be married) they are marked out for hero status.

Other professions are not so lucky A couple of years ago the NHS briefly ran its own "good news" unit, to counter the impression of a crumbling service as depicted in Casualty and Cardiac Arrest. It failed, as it was bound to do. Not just because its bald statistics contradicted real experience

that was relatively unimportant. The problem was that the rules of drama require conflict and context. Pitting noble nurses against uncaring bureaucrats was a theme that allowed real dramatic tension to unfold alongside the medical story. Given that many illnesses and accidents look much the same, the internal drama of the crisis-ridden institution allowed similar story lines to look different. Viewers enjoyed the stories and tuned in - the Department of Health's pres releases were binned.

After all, if drama were accurate. how many bare-breasted gorgeous female MPs would drape themselves over foreign secretaries? How many tarts would turn out inevitably to have hearts, or (worst of all) how many journalists would be drunken, lazy, unscrupulous and sexually incompe

A wage rise? Yes, but ...

Performance-related schemes are likely to be the key to successful pay deals, says Adair Turner

We all wish to see a more prosperous Britain, and one where all of us have a share n that prosperity. But how is prosperity to be achieved and how is it to be shared? In the past we have tended to let our aspirations run away far ahead of reality, so that periods of economic growth and rising real incomes have led to wage/price spirals which undermine that growth.

Thus, we were once a country renowned for its strike record, double-figure wage settlements and inflation rates. We were all too familiar with the boom and bust of the UK economy. In recovery, we came to expect unemployment to fall, but prices and wages then to rise at an accelerating pace. But we also knew that in recession. unemployment would usually rise while moderation of wage rises would come only slowly. As a nation we took one step forward and then one back.

Now, however, Britain's economy and workforce is more competitive, flexible and nnovative. We are experiencing stable economic growth, with a reasonable chance of inflation staying within the Government's 1 to 4 per cent band, and probably below the 2.5 per cent target, on a sustainable basis. And there is growing evidence that the tendency towards a price/wage spi-ral has been broken in this most recent recovery. We have now seen unemployment falling consistently for 28 months, but with low inflation and low average earnings increases. All of this is good news and a break with the past.

However, we have also seen a significant fall in the share of national income accounted for by wages and salaries. For many people, real earnings after tax may well have declined in the past couple of years.

Looking forward, we cannot assume, and indeed should not expect, that that trend will continue. We all want rising national income per capita, and that should mean - over the long term - rising real earnings. There is nothing unsustainable about rising real earnings provided that they enjoying the benefits of ecoare earned by increases in productivity achieved by profitable companies.

But if the vision should be one of medium-term realincome growth, the potential for an upward pay spiral should never be forgotten or underestimated. If we simply return as the economy begins to the Confederation of Britisi: deliver real-income growth – to *Industry*:

the environment of across-the hoard pay settlements, parounds and going rates, we wi recreate the inflationary spire and undermine the very growt

we are now achieving.
The challenge is therefore t develop a framework for remuneration that deliverreal-income increases on average and over the mediur term, but does so in a noninflationary fashion. Such framework needs to reinforc. the steps many employers have already been taking to linindividual pay to individua. team and company performance, so that the lin between wealth creation anearning increases is clear.

There is evidence that the wage/ price spiral has been broken

Profit-related pay schemeand employee share-ownership schemes, already in place in growing number of companies are among the mechanisms b which such links can be achieved. Pay schemes tha: reward personal development and team contribution also have a role to play.

Such approaches are mechanisms to give individuals sense of opportunity, of participation in a company's anin the economy's overall success, and to ensure that "flexibility" is seen as a source c: potential benefit rather than .: threat to individual security They also need to be placed within a context of effective workplace communications and of an approach to trainin. that gives employees th. chance to flourish in a world o rapidly changing skil: demands. Together, these ar: mechanisms to give people. "stake" in the overall econ omy, and this form of stake holding is one that busines can certainly welcome.

For in the long term, business cannot flourish without th. broad mass of people also nomic success. But it is vital, awe achieve that economi. growth, that we do not there undermine it by reverting b inflexible and formulaic ways o setting wages unrelated to economic affordability.

The writer is director-general o.

At least Charles has a vision

Never mind his whingeing style; the Prince is right to criticise the Millennium Commission's plans



BRYAN APPLEYARD

D rince Charles's views on architec-I ture have always been uniformly silly, wrong-headed and damaging. In the contemporary world, honouring the past by recreating it should be left to Disney and McDonald's rather than demanded of Foster and Rogers. His views on other subjects, however, have often displayed encouraging signs of being almost right, if rather wetly expressed. And now, on the subject of the millennium, he has, unequivocally, got it all right.

His article in his magazine, Perspectives on Architecture, is clearly inspired by his perception – shared by anybody who thinks about the subject for more than five minutes - that the Millennium Commission with its grubby sacks of lottery cash is a miserable affair, hell-bent on the usual modern British project of aiming low and missing. He detects, correctly, that in the absence of any grand, imaginative sense of what the millennium should be about, we are allowing it to be about nothing at all - ie, fun fairs, theme parks and vaguely sensitive do-gooding.

It is, to say the least, depressing," he writes with an unfortunate lapse into his wet, tentative, whingeing style, "that there is so little one could describe as transcending the merely material in the projects which have so far been submitted to the Millennium Commission."

Instead, he calls for a celebration of spiritual renewal, a rejection of the murderous nihilism of the 20th century and a statement of hope. He suggests a number of ways of doing this, but the most interesting - and controversial - is his idea that we should finance a range of new religious

Of course, churches are still built in this country, but there is little interest in them, aesthetic or spiritual. Nobody fights liturgical wars over Gothic versus classical as they did in the last century. And, since Guildford and Coventry, cathedral-building has been completely off the national agenda.

One obvious reason is that if anybody suggested a cathedral, somebody else would immediately say it should be a hospital/community centre/gym and nobody, not even the Church, would dare disagree. "How many divisions has the Pope?" asked Stalin. We ask the same question, softened for contemporary ears: "How many acute beds has St Paul's?"

Another reason is the alarming, levelling doctrine of multiculturalism. How could we build a cathedral rather than a mosque or temple? The Prince gets round this by embracing reality it turns out the Muslims are more moral than we are. We wallow a lousy millennium party, we shall

Behind the highly venerable concept of giving prizes to writers lies the idea that good books and their authors

frequently miss out on two things - suf-

ficient publicity for their work and suf-

ficient money to continue producing

it. Therefore, the news that Orange, the mobile phone company, has set up

a new literary prize worth £30,000 is

about so many things it is also emi-neally understandable that prizes

should be limited to particular sorts of

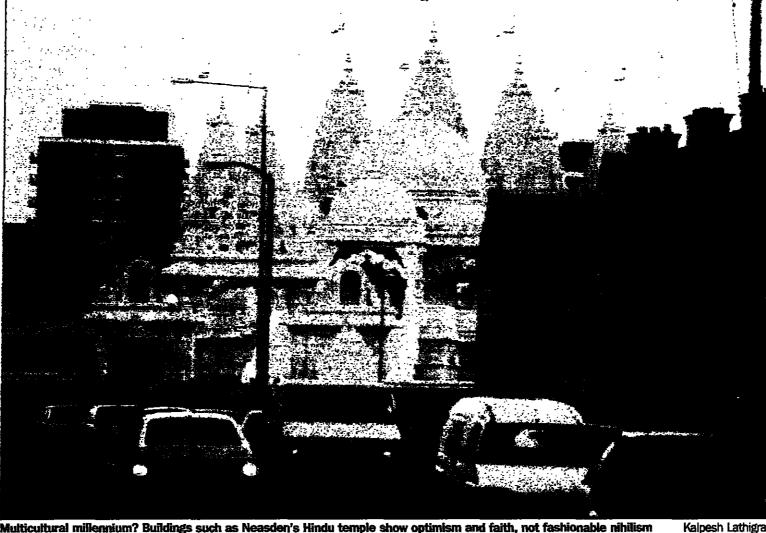
books, the kind donors see as unfairly

treated by the market. A patron of the

arts is in a privileged position to define

Because so many books are written

momentous and cheering.



Multicultural millennium? Buildings such as Neasden's Hindu temple show optimism and faith, not fashionable nihilism

multiculturalism, redefining himself touch it. as the Defender of Faith rather than Defender of the Faith. Perhaps in a desperate attempt to express his own transcendent longings against the prevailing orthodoxy of materialism, he identifies a generalised human spirituality rather than any sectarian creed as the only possible solution to

our woes. This immediately lands him in trouble. The press, suffering from its usual cultural bipolar disorder, reports him as saying that money should go to mosques. The intention is, of course, to inflame anti-Islamic feeling, an enduring given in the newspaper imagination. The Prince has obligingly provided yet more ammunition, even to the extent of, at one point, quoting the Koran. This, clearly, is a man who has sold out to the chanting nutters.

But wait a minute. The stories quote Muslims as saying they could not accept lottery cash because of their own injunction against gambling. So, disgusted as the newspapers' highly moral readership may be at the idea of financing mosques, in

Unconsciously, in its zeal to inflame prejudice, this coverage dramatises precisely the right point. For British Muslims do build mosques - frequently big, cathedrallike ones - and the Hindus build temples. The Prince himself contrasts the vast new Hindu temple in Neasden with our own plans for "a giant, but essentially meaningless, party which will soon be no more than a passing memory". If we can't build cathedrals, he implies, then help them build theirs. Faith, hope, of one kind or

another, will be served and who is to say that Neasden is not the Lincoln or Wells of the future? Not us, certainly, a people who cannot tell the difference between a spandrel and a Big Mac. There is much that can be said against the reduction of faith to a bland, all-purpose spirituality. But Charles's point remains strong. The disconsolate, separated heir is clearly searching for significance, a coherent reason for celebration that is more

than merely functional, sentimental

or hedonistic. He thinks that, without

a constitutionally radical form of in tainted lottery cash, they won't have a lousy millennium, an era just as brutal, stupid and lost as the 20th century. But, equally, he believes this will not happen, that we are on the verge of a new spirituality, a reconnection to our transcendent roots. Perhaps now is precisely the

time to start a few cathedrals.

This is, of course, unrealistic. If we are on the verge of a new age the Millennium Commission will certainly be at lunch when it happens. Neither cathedrals nor any other kind of materially functionless monuments can, these days, be talked through the committees, accountants, managers and single-issue freaks that dominate the decision-making process in Britain. Secular monuments get built - art galleries, theatres, concert halls - but these invariably have to be justified either by a liberal élitist ideology of art or by the promise of commercial gain. Art survives to make transcendent demands, but only, in the public realm, as a religious surrogate or as corporate advertising. One way or another, function has to prevail because the possibility of a shared non-functional reality simply does not exist.

When the Prince witters about architecture what he really wants is

pretty villages dotted around Palladian mansions, all frozen at some point in the early 18th century. There are plenty of modern architects that can do better than that. On the subject of the millennium, however, he has rightly detected that there is no one. His reaction is bravely to demand the impossible - or, if not that, then at least support for other British cultures that have not yet succumbed to our nihilism.

It is sad that this well-meaning but usually appallingly ill-advised man can expect his idealism to be greeted with little more than mockery, or that his thoughts will be interpreted as one more shot in the feud with his estranged wife. Sad, but oddly appro-priate. For there he is, talking about cathedrals and the ravages of materialism while, daily, Diana is photographed in Lycra turning up to worship at the pec decks and treadmills of her Chelsea gym. The separation has become a Cartesian war between the soul and the body.

Well, at least that makes one thing easy. I gather that in court circles these days you are expected to be either of the Charles or the Diana party. It is a relief to know at last which side I am on.

Orange's underlying "chivalrous" but

patronising attitude to women writers:

that they are creatures under threat. What the country needs are literary

prizes that encourage specific ways of

writing, particular ways of conceiving

experience. They should reflect the

tastes and visions of their donors.

British Airways could encourage books on flying. Marks & Spencer, beautifully packaged works on domes-

tic subjects, and a mobile phone maker

could aid writers of works written

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Patronage of the worst kind

who believes that more people should write books like Aristotle, Diderot or Proust could award a prize to anyone who attempted anything in that genre. It is therefore with interest that one

views the area Orange wishes to promote and encourage with its generous prize. This is where the problem starts, for it turns out that their prize has absolutely no conditions other than that it has to be awarded to a woman. Why a woman, one may ask? What is it about being a woman that a vision of the world via the choice of is particularly under threat, in need of artists he or she sponsors. Someone attention, or indeed distinctive from ANOTHER VIEW

Alain de Botton

being a man when it comes to picking up a pen? Women regularly win literary prizes, the Whitbread and Booker this year. They write as many books as men and depict their own gender with no more success than types such as Flaubert.

Why did Orange not identify an element in the writing of certain women

that it particularly liked and then choose to award the prize to anyone, be it male or female, who handled the theme well? Dilemmas of unhappily married women are often better treated by women than men, but something is wrong with a prize that

would have excluded Tolstoy.

The reader may be wondering about the author, though being a male writer happy to receive £30,000 does not, by definition, invalidate the argument. which would stand even if Vodafone offered a male equivalent next week.

entirely in the dialogue form. That it probably won't reflects Tell (£9.99).

The writer is the author of Essays in Love' (Macmillan £5.99), 'The Romantic Movement' (£5.99) and 'Kiss and

· 48 ###

Abdullah

wins in

Water

Hall vote

Raschid Abdullah, best known for turning a small en-

gineering company in the

1980s into a mini-conglom-

erate called Evered, yesterday

in effect won control of the

DAVID HELLIER

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2530 fax 0171-293 2098

Fresh crisis for British Gas as levy call rejected

Industrial Correspondent

The Government has dealt a swingeing blow to British Gas by refusing to pave the way for a levy on its rivals to offset the massive costs of long-term contracts with North Sea producers.

The company has some £15bn worth of contracts that are forcing it to buy more gas than it can sell and it has called repeatedly for ministers to help bail it out of its predicament.

There are fears in the City that British Gas will cut its 1996 interim dividend because of estimated liabilities of £1.5bn related to the contracts. This year alone the company is paying £520m for gas it cannot yet

Richard Giordano, the chairman, has warned that the problem could be exacerbated by the planned introduction of domestic competition from April.

The blow came just a day after British Gas announced sweeping boardroom changes with the appointment as group finance director of Philip Hampton, the 42-year-old finance director of British Steel. The move allows his predecessor, Roy Gardner, to take on a much wider brief including

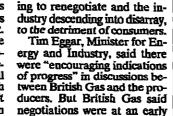
Mr Gardner is increasingly regarded as the eventual reslacement for Cedric Brown, chief executive.

British Gas said: "These gas contracts are part of the costs of restructuring the gas market.
It would be inequitable for the full cost of transition from monopoly to the competitive market [from which consumers will benefit] to be borne by British Gas shareholders alone." But it pointed out that renegotiation was always seen as the key, with a levy as a "safety net".

A source in the company added: "With more than £15bn in payments to be made under the contracts, this is by any definition a very serious problem." The Government's decision

was applauded by a jubilant Gas Consumers Council. Ian Powe, director, said: "The levy was never going to be more than an insurance policy against British Gas going bust, but the political premium was beginning to look a bit pricey. Consumers would have found it intolerable that any government should think it reasonable they should bail out British Gas whose directors are well rewarded to sort out the company's own

Provision for the levy would have been included in the new licences for public gas suppliers,



stage and some North Sea com-

panies say that the talks have

including offshore companies and North Sea firms. The idea

was to have a last-ditch solution

in the event of British Gas fail-

barely begun. One City analyst said: "This is a gradual wasting illness. British Gas will really have to start talking in earnest now that they have failed to win this safety backstop." Another said the company was in a state of "chaos" from which there was no simple escape and that it could not just blame the Government's decision to introduce competition in the market-

There is also a view, however, that the company may be overstating the size of the problem to gain sympathy.

The Gas Consumers Council has called for an inquiry by the House of Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee to clarify the situation, but so far



Set back on their heels : (left to right) Cedric Brown, chief executive of British Gas, Roy Gardner, recently promoted in a boardroom shift, and Richard Giordano, chairman



D-Day: Kevin Maxwell (left) and his brother lan will hear from the SFO today

Photograph: Edward Webb

decision today on Maxwells

JOHN WILLCOCK Financial Correspondent

Kevin and Ian Maxwell will discover today whether the Serious Fraud Office intends to pursue or drop a the oustanding criminal charges against them, following their sensational acquittal on two counts a week ago. The original indictment consisted of ten counts, two of which formed the basis of the eight-month trial which ended with the acquittal of Kevin and Ian and Larry Trachetenberg, a former Maxwell financial adviser, on charges of

City sources said last night that if the SFO drops the re-

conspiracy to defraud.

brothers before the Social Security Select Committee.

The MPs tried to quiz Kevin and Ian in 1992, after the death of their father Robert Maxwell and the collapse of his business

The committee wanted to know how more than £440m was removed from the Maxwell pension funds. Both brothers told the committee that they were unable to say anything, pending the criminal case. If today the SFO drops any

remaining criminal charges then Mr Field and his committee will he free to call them again. Last night he said: "Our primary con-

maining eight counts Frank cern will be how well the legal Field MP will call the Maxwell system and the regulatory syssystem and the regulatory sys-tem protected £440m in the pension funds, which no-one disputes was stolen. The ques-

> The remaining eight counts on the indictment include charges against two other former Maxwell employees Michael Stoney and Albert

tion remains how it was stolen."

Tulier.

The charges were that:
Kevin Maxwell Larry Trachicoberg and
Albert Fuller conspired with Robert Maxwell
to defraud Credit Suisse by dishonestly pledging shares belonging to Macroillam and to
First Tokyo Index Trust as collateral for a
£50m loan to Mirror Group.
Kevin Maxwell and Albert Fuller conspired with Robert Maxwell to defraud
Bayersiche Vereinstank by pledging Im
Berlitz shares as collateral for a £25m loan
to Mirror Group.

ing shares belonging to First Tokyo Index
Trust.

Kevin Maxwell and Larry Trachtenberg
conspired with Robert Maxwell to defraud
the Trustees and beneficiaries of the
Mirror Group Pension Scheme and AGB
Pension Scheme by dishoneatly piedging
pension assets to secure loans from Credit Suisse and Swiss Volksbank to the private Maxwell businesses.

Kevin Maxwell and Michael Stoney,
a former finance director of Mirror Group
conspired with Robert Maxwell to borrow
150m on behalf of MGN and use the proceeds for other purposes.

Michael Stoney Laistified the accounting records of MGN by removing the receipt of £50m from Bankers Trust. And
that he removed the record of MGN's liability to Brankers Trust.

Kevin Maxwell Lompired to defraud
Swiss Volksbank by dishonestly pledging
2-4m shares in Berlitz as security for a
\$35m loan to the private Maxwell
businesses.

board of Water Hall after a shareholders' vote. Some 434 million votes were cast in favour of a resolution requiring Edward Weiss, the company's chairman, to stand down, with 155

Broker

D

million cast against. Mr Weiss said that a small group of shareholders who owned significant blocks of shares and who a year ago agreed not to use their voting power against the board, accounted for approximately 60 per cent of the votes cast and they voted in favour of the resolutions.

Yesterday's events mark a return to corporate power for Mr Abdullah and his brother Osman who together turned Evered into an acquisitive mini-conglomerate before they were both forced out after a boardroom split.

The two brothers were also involved earlier in the management of Water Hall, when it was known as Starmin, but in 1993 they resigned their executive positions when the group was in need of a fi-nancial restructuring.

As part of that restructuring Raschid Abdullah, who remained on the board as a non-executive director. arranged some of the financing from Middle Eastern investors who yesterday backed him in the overthrow of Mr Weiss.

Mr Abdullah has argued that the group, which has been pulled around into profit by Mr Weiss, should now pull out of its traditional quarrying and landfill business and move into a new

business. Mr Weiss said yesterday that he regretted the outcome of the shareholders' vote "but wished the company well for the future". He ointed out that of the shareholders who voted on the motion, 1,284 voted against the motion and only 604 vot-

ed in favour of it. However, the small group of shareholders that owned significant blocks of shares pushed the vote through on the Abdullahs behalf.

As part of the resolution Anthony Smith, formerly with Wagon Industrial, will become a director of the company. He has said he will look at issues independently, although he is perceived to be a supporter of the Abdullahs. Raschid Abdullah told shareholders at yesterday's

meeting that he had an "open mind" about the strategy Water Hall should follow.

Government

from BAA sale

George denies being fixated on inflation

PAUL WALLACE **Economics Editor**

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, has de-fended himself against charges that he is fixated on controlling inflation and mounted a vigorous defence of the Bank's supervisory powers.

In a lecture at the London School of Economics, Mr cised Mr George for his George also delivered what many will see as an implicit rebuke to the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, for last week's unexpected cut in interest rates.

"Time and again we have seen attempts to stimulate the economy directly result in a relatively short period of faster economic growth, followed by recession brought on by the pol-icy restraint which was eventually unavoidable to bring increasing economic imbalance and accelerating inflation back under control," he said.

The absence of any open endorsement of the cut in base rate to 6.25 per cent led many City analysis to conclude that the Bank would have preferred delay after the inital quarter point reduction in December. However, Mr George said the

new monetary framework under which the Bank's advice to the Chancellor is published six weeks after each monthly meeting was proving a success.

What matters in the end is the results, in terms of our performance - on inflation, but also on growth and employment.

"All I would say to you is we have made steady progress in all these respects over the past three years, and the prospects remain very encouraging.

The Governor's emphasis on growth and employment formed part of a broader defence of the Bank's mission of price stability. MPs on the Treasury Committee recently critiunwillingness to concede that he made a misjudgement last May, when the Chancellor overruled his request for a further rise in

interest rates. The Governor insisted that the Bank's mission of price stability was not a goal in itself, but "because we see it as a means to the end of precisely those good things in life which our critics assume we disregard".

Mr George defended the Bank's role in supervising banks. He argued the two objectives of monetary and fi-nancial stability went hand in hand: disturbances in the financial sector could disrupt the pursuit of monetary stability and vice-versa.

The blurring of financial institutions had created new reg-ulatory challenges but the touted solution of a single financial services regulator seriously underestimated the complexity of the

"Any central bank must monitor developments in the banking system very closely and that will necessarily involve monitoring individual banks."

ML boss makes £55m in biotech boom

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Kevin Leech, the chairman and co-founder of ML Laboratories, yesterday sold a share stake worth £55m as biotechnology stocks roared to new

peaks in London. The value of British Biotech, the largest, broke through the £1bn barrier after one analyst reiterated his buy recommendation and several companies is-sued optimistic statements on current drug developments.

Mr Leech's Milner Laboratories is reducing its stake in the USM-listed ML Laboratories from 66 per cent to 54 per cent in a placing at 400p. The deal will raise £55m for Milner, which is 66 per cent owned by Mr Leech and is the vehicle through which he backed the

JOHN EISENHAMMER

Big City institutions were last

night showing initial support for Sir Rocco Forte's intention to

buy back many of the botels lost

One senior fund manager

aid: "Rocco has more than a

fighting change of getting the

equity backing he needs. Insti-tutions are flush with cash and he has gained sufficient friends

in the City by his defence."

Just 24 hours after losing

control of the Forte empire to

Granada, Sir Rocco announced

his intention to lead a man-

agement buyout of the 167 Ex-

clusive, Meridien and Heritage

to the Granada takeover.

Financial Editor

medical inventor Jeremiah Mil- ral agent, D2S dissolved in Ico- lyst at Robert Fleming. But the ner before ML Labs was floated on the Third Market in 1987. The estate of the late Mr Milner owns the rest of Milner

ML is itself raising £25m in a placing at the same price. The money is to be used in the development of Icodial, a kidney dialysis solution and the only one of MLs products currently on the market.

MLs shares rose 46p to a new high of 457p yesterday, despite the announcement of pre-tax losses which deepened from £2.26m to £3.4m in the year to September.

Excitement centred on the announcement that a clinical study of a potential Aids treatment was "progressing well".

a substantial amount of equity

from institutions, with a pledge

to float shortly afterwards. "He

needs sufficient equity backing

before raising the sort of debt

required for a bid to proceed,"

In a guarded response.

Granada said it had only ever

declared its intention to sell the

Exclusive and Meridien chains.

"In parallel with discussions

with other interested parties.

Granada would be happy to

consider any proposal that Sir

Rocco may wish to make con-

cerning these particular brands,

once he and his team are in a

position to put forward a seri-

217.5 16.5

71

7.0

ous offer.

a corporate banker said.

dial, which it is claimed enables drugs to be delivered more effectively. But some analysts greeted the test results at London's Hammersmith Hospital with some scepticism, given that they only covered four patients with Aids.

British Biotech, continuing to benefit from November's announcement of promising results from its Marimastat anti-cancer drug, rose another 70p to a record close of £21.68. The shares have now risen 29 per cent in just under a fortnight, although the company re-

ains at a loss to explain why. The main propellant behind yesterday's share movement seems to have been a reiterated buy recommendation by Ian White, pharmaceuticals ana-

advantages over potential rivals.

so that he could afford to bid

more. "Rocco knows all about

the businesses, where the prof-

its are, while everyone else is bid-

ding blind. He stands the best

chance of keeping the lucrative

management contracts, and a

block deal could be done in a

Accor, beaten to Meridien by

Forte when Air France sold the

four-star chain in 1994, is be-

lieved to be interested in these

hotels again. Speculation has

also centered on the US buyout

specialist Kohlberg, Kravis and

Roberts as a possible financial

purchaser. "But we have found

tax-efficient way for Granada."

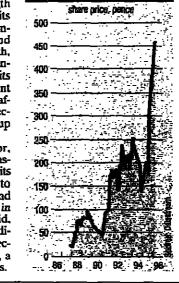
said one investment banker.

£2.5bn. He is expected to seek the hotels as a block had several

Analysts said a Forte bid for nobody else internationally who

shares have gathered strength during a recent round of visits by management to institutioninvestors in London and Scotland. Earlier this month, Guardian Royal Exchange announced that it had raised its stake to 4.1 per cent. Sentiment was further buoyed this week after a new non-executive director, Henny de Ruiter, picked up

3,000 shares. Elsewhere in the sector, Cortecs International, the Australian biotech company, saw its shares hit a peak, rising 33p to 270p. The company said it had achieved a "key milestone" in its development of a rapid. whole-blood, point-of-care diagnostic product for the detection of collagen breakdown, a key indicator of osteoporosis.



RUSSELL HOTTEN

The Government yesterday

raised £144m after selling its

remaining stake in BAA, the

airports operator, as part of

a gradual disposal of its hold-

ing in privatised companies. The Treasury sold the 2.86

City warming to Rocco buyout raises £144m

is interested in buying all the as-sets, many just want bits," a cor-The Forte family will net about £320m from selling its shares to Granada, and is reported to have lines of credits

for another £250m. One institutional manager said: "That is a good basis for attracting equity from institu-tions for a bid for Forte New company. There is a lot in the idea that appears sensible."

Exclusive group's 18 luxury hotels include the George V in Paris and London's Grosvenor House. Meridien is made up of 85 business hotels, while Heritage comprises 52 inns.

declared unconditional.

per cent stake to Merrill Lynch for about 490p after a Granada's bid was yesterday

business organised by NM Rothschild. Dealers said Merrill placed the 29.5 million shares with several institutions at about

494p. BAA shares closed 1p lower at 495p. The Government's sale had been expected since it indicated last year that it had asked Rothschild to divest the remaining post-privatisation

shareholdings. The sale of a block of British Petroleum shares worth £180m in December marked the start of this

with the disposal of a 14 per cent interest in Mersey Docks

& Harbour Company and shareholdings in the privatised water and electricity companies and generators. Labour Party critics have accused the Government of

ver" to pay for tax cuts in advance of the next general election.

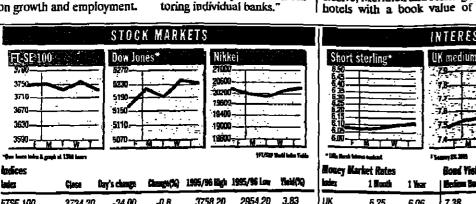
Rothschild was commissioned last year to sell a share portfolio of 34 government "bin-ends" worth more than £1.2bn, of which BP was the first and largest. The BP sale was claimed to be the largest bought deal of secret City auction for the its kind in the City and used a rarely-employed procedure.

It is thought that Rothschild invited securities firms to its offices after the markets had closed and kept each team separate while they bid for the BAA business.

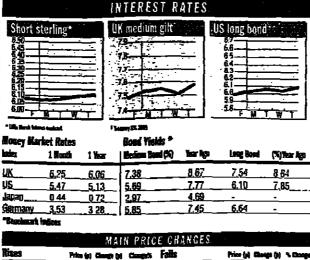
They were given little advance warning of the details of the sale, other than that they would be called upon to commit a large amount of

Meanwhile, yesterday the chairman of BAA, Gordon Edington, warned that the world's airports faced a massive funding shortfall to meet The sales will continue the huge demand for investment in facilities.

Speaking at a conference, he said that the funding gap -\$50bn in the US alone over the next five years - could only be bridged by private sector finance as local authorities would not have the "selling off the family sil- money.



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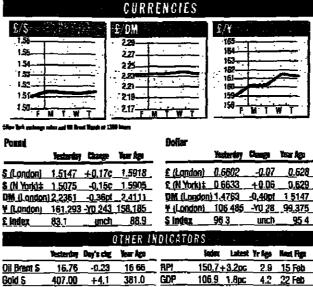


British Vita

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268.70 +2.41 240.009 Base Rates - 6.25pc 6.75



Frockers geats up

EST BUT EOSSIP ON MAN

THE PARTY IN STREET

Winsin Water

find a way of

negotiating the cost of the take-or-pay penalty down, or of absorbing the cost in its own balance

sheet, shareholders should find a new management that

British Gas pays the price for its grand folly Common sense has prevailed, and the Government has told British Gas where

to put its levy. The biggest surprise is that it took ministers as long as it did to come down against the idea of making gas consumers bail out a company which largely has itself to blame for highly priced take-or-pay North Sea supply contracts. There was never, in truth, much of a case for assistance even though it plainly might be damaging for the consumer if British Gas descended into serious financial difficulty.

The company has never given a figure for

the potential cost of continuing with the con-

tracts. Sceptics have always believed the company exaggerates its plight. However, industry guestimates do point to a liability of £1.5bn or more. Losses of anywhere near this would be exceedingly painful, representing more than three years of dividends at the latest rate of £630m a year. But they are not enough to bankrupt a company with shareholders' funds of nearly £8bn, With the shares hitting new lows almost daily, there is clearly concern in the stock market that the take-or-pay fiasco will none the less be used as grounds for cutting the dividend. We are perhaps past the stage of needing explanations for this extraordinary affair. When British Gas signed so many high-price contracts - including three after 1991 - it obviously thought its supply monopoly would continue indefinitely. The plain truth seems

present gas glut. Or at least it believed its monopoly so secure that it didn't matter what was happening in the market place, it would still be able to charge what it liked.

What makes the producers particularly hot under the collar is that the price British Gas's offshore subsidiary charges its own inhouse supply arm for Morecambe Bay gas is even today higher than most of them get from the take-or-pay contracts at issue. In other words it is still paying itself more than t pays most other producers. It can therefore expect little mercy in the negotiations which must now begin with some urgency.

The man put in charge of sorting out the mess, Roy Gardner, needs a radical approach to the problem if British Gas is to emerge with any credit. It may well be that getting out of gas supply altogether, leaving the company as a gas producer and monopoly distributor, proves the most eloquent solution to the problem. Selling the supply arm piecemeal to the producers with the problematic contracts attached would also achieve in one stroke the fully competitive domestic gas market the Government wants.

Labour's mergers policy needs rethinking

By one of those odd coincidences, the Forte takeover battle came to a head just to be that it simply failed to foresee the con-sequences of a fall in the gas price and the cide on what kind of mergers policy, if any,

Labour might well have blocked Granada's break-up bid and new Labour is highly likely to form the next Government, the party's thoughts on the matter bear some examination. Rightly or wrongly, the Forte battle has come to be seen as the very embodiment of 1980s-style asset stripping in which the short-term interests of a small group of pow-erful City investors and fee earners dominate over other "stakeholders".

As things stand, Labour is committed to that old canard of a mergers policy - that bidders should be required to demonstrate positive benefit or have their takeovers blocked. While in theory this is a fine idea, in practice it would make merger decisions highly susceptible to political whim and favour. It is easier to explain what is meant by the "stakeholder" economy than define the "public interest" in a takeover. The result would be a mergers policy run along the lines of Forrest Gump – you never know what you're going to git (sic). The present Gov-ernment's purist approach – markets decide unless there are very clear cut competition concerns - may be at the other extreme but

at least it has the merit of predictability.
It so happens that on Wednesday night, as Sir Rocco Forte was nursing his wounds. Labour's advisory task force on competition policy was holding its first meeting in Westminster. By all accounts, task force members came down heavily against the present Labour Party position. The mixed bag of had to be earned through higher produc-

the task force do not decide Labour policy. But they are expected to have a serious input into the manifesto, by helping politicians decide what is practical. Surprise surprise. what they want is to water down public inter-est and keep competition high on the agenda in merger policy.

In Europe, competition is the only factor. If Labour sticks to its present position it could be faced with the absurdity of having "big" mergers decided by Europe on com-petition grounds alone while only the smaller domestic ones get subjected to the full public interest works. A better approach would be to make the process by which investment institutions decide on takeovers much more open to public scrutiny and justification.

Minimum wage is the next step for the CBI

In itself, Adair Turner's speech at an In-stitute of Personnel and Development conference yesterday was rather less remarkable than the way it was billed. True, the CBI's director general told employers to pay their workers more. He even used the "s" word, though he gave the idea of "stakeholding"

competition specialists and experts from util-ities, retailers, cable companies and the National Consumer Council who make up employee share ownership schemes. His message that Britain must avoid the danger of becoming a low-wage economy is the sort of thing many businessmen have been say-ing for years. Furthermore, his speech con-tained the familiar warning of the potential for a new upward wage-price spiral. All

uncontroversial enough, it might be said.

However, Mr Turner's remarks have a logical extension that the CBI has so far refused to accept. That is the need for a national minimum wage. It is at the very bottom of the labour market that real incomes have fallen most precipitously. It is there where the sweatshop labour is concentrated. Raising the rewards and skills of those on very low incomes will do more for Britain's competitive position than persuading a few more big companies of the case for profit-related pay. As every businessman knows, to compete on cost alone is the road to run.

There is now a very respectable body of research showing that the level of minimum wage proposed by Tony Blair would not cause big job losses. On the contrary, it would improve recruitment and retention in lowpaid jobs, and encourage firms to provide more training. The CBI still mistakenly argues the opposite. Even a low minimum would cause problems, it argued in its latest statement on the subject. Mr Turner should take his argument to its logical conclusion.

TOM STEVENSON

portant new year selling season remain more than a third below last year, Airtours shareholders were told at the holiday company's annual meeting vesterday. Despite moves to reduce sharply the number of holidays on offer for next summer, the latest figures confirmed the difficulties travel firms are still facing matching

supply with expected demand. Airtours shares shrugged off the news, despite the doubt cast

Analysts said the news would have hit the stock harder but for Airtours might be the subject of Corporation, America's biggest

tours to confirm that it was in talks with Carnival which might trying to sell holidays for that

Brokers lukewarm on

Railtrack prospects

ment to write off a large part of Railtrack's £1.65bn debt ahead

of the flotation, reducing inter-

The authors.

downbeat analysis yesterday Andrew Fitchie and Bill Dale, climb back only to £191m.

said their numbers should not

be construed as a profit forecast

and they disclaimed any con-

nection with SBC Warburg's

role in the share sale. Never-

theless, their analysis is bound

Warburg suggested that pretax profits, including excep-

to influence City expectations.

tionals, would be £178m in the

year to March, £11m lower than

last year. Next year they would

rise to £195m, reaching £210m

in 1997-98, £230m in 1988-99

the pressure on the govern- and £251m the following year. allow efficiency improvements.

est charges and raising profits, as the chairman, Bob Horton, this year to £203m, fall to £168m

for Airtours yesterday poured full bid and the company said only that it would make a further announcement as soon as

According to the company, bookings across the industry are

After-tax profits will benefit

for the next two years from tax

relief inherited from British

next year and by 1999-2000 they believe net profits will

Improved efficiency and cost

cutting were likely to be the

main drivers of Railtrack's near

term profit, with savings of 3 per

cent a year on maintenance.

"There is great scope for using

people and technology more ef-

main qualities as substantial

asset backing, a predictable

revenue stream in a stable reg-

ulatory framework and a "sub-

stantial cost base" that would

They described Railtrack's

ficiently" the analysts said.

up to 29.9 per cent in the lowing summer had arrived on British company. A spokesman their shelves.

The number of holidays travcold water on the prospect of a el companies have pre-bought for this summer is running 15 per cent lower than 12 months ago in an effort to reduce overcapacity and avoid the fire sale of unsold trips forced on the industry in 1995. Last year's oversupply was partly caused by reasonably buoyant sales in the early months which ran out of

> Judging the likely demand for ackage holidays is always difficult for travel companies, with large numbers of holidaymak

years, they have been able to pick up unsold vacancies at bargain prices.

About one-fifth of the following summer's holidays are sold by Christmas and a further 25 per cent in the cold, dark months of January and February. After that, however, there is a lull in sales until July and August, when 30 per cent of the year's supply is sold shortly before departure.

Last year, Airtours saw its profits slide from £75.8m to £59.1m, the first decline in nine years. This time analysts expect a return to 1994's profits level,

the last minute when in recent although after stripping out years, they have been able to the contribution of the new Sunquest subsidiary underlying profits are still likely to be down on two years ago. Winter bookings of the overseas oper-

ations are up 12 per cent. Contrary to the poor prospects for next summer, Airtours said the winter season was "progressing satisfactorily". Bookings were running 4 per cent ahead of last year, in line with the market as a whole. Going Places, the Airtours travel agency arm, had increased its market share as the benefits of an expansion of its branch net-

IN BRIEF

Member of WH Smith family sells shares

Philip Smith, the last remaining family member on the board of WH Smith, the troubled retail group, has sold a third of his holding in the company. He raised more than £12m through the sale of 3.24 million shares at 400p on Wednesday after the company had reported a sharp fall in profits. Jeremy Hardie, WH Smith chairman, said Mr Smith, who is a non-executive director, had sold the shares "to diversify his portfolio". He denied that the sale indicated a lack of confidence in the company's future.

National Savings cuts rates

National Savings yesterday cut with immediate effect the rates paid to savers across its range of products by an average of 0.5 per cent. The reduction includes Pensioners' Bonds, down from 7.5 to 7 per cent, and Index-Linked Certificates, down from 3 to 2.5 per cent, plus inflation.

Maize costs hit Tate & Lyle division

Sharply higher maize costs mean 1996 profits at Staley, Tate & Lyle's US operation, will be "below those achieved in 1994 and 1995", shareholders were told at the sugar company's annual meeting yesterday. The Staley downturn will hold group profits for the year to September to no more than last year's £311.1m.

Strike halves Boeing earnings

Boeing's net earnings fell 54 per cent last year as it suffered the effects of a 10-week machinists' strike and what analysts believe was the final stages of a long industry downturn. Boeing earned \$393m, or \$1.15 a share, for the year on sales of \$19.5bn, down from earnings of \$856m, or \$2.51 a share, on sales of \$21.9bn in 1994. Fourth-quarter net earnings rose 38 per cent, but only due to a tax credit as sales fell 11 per cent, largely because of the strike.

Rovers break half-million barrier

Production of Rovers and Land-Rovers broke the half-million barrier last year for the first time since 1989. A total of 501,300 vehicles were built, an increase of 4.8 per cent, while sales rose by 2 per cent. Almost half of sales were exports, with records set in Japan and North America. Rover recruited an extra 3,900 workers last year, taking its total workforce to 40,000, the highest figure for five years.

Fyffes buys Dutch stake

Fyffes, the banana company that acquired the Geest banana business last month, has acquired a 50 per cent shareholding in Anaco International, a Dutch fresh fruit and produce company. The business imports and distributes fuit and vegetables from the Canary Islands, Spain and Morocco.

Slump in Airtours bookings continues

Holiday bookings in the im-

PETER RODGERS

Railtrack's profit after tax will fall next year and will not regain

from SBC Warburg, global co-

The brokers warned that the

scope for Railtrack to grow its

revenue in the near term was limited, although there was

"some potential" to generate

property development profits of

The analysis is likely to be

read as confirmation of the

widespread view in the City

that Railtrack will be lucky to

fetch £2bn. It will also increase

about £11m a year.

ordinator to the privatisation.

the 1995-96 level even by the end has sought.

Business Editor

verse a dramatic profits slump last year. That was also caused by a big miscalculation of the appetite of British holidaymakers for overseas trips, compounded by a long hot summer that persuaded late bookers to stay at

persistent speculation that a bid approach from Carnival cruise business.

Last week, a leak forced Air-

there was anything to report.

down 25 per cent for summer 1996 holidays. It excused its own 34 per cent decline by saying brochures had been delayed this year to avoid confusing travel agents. In 1994 a rush of late bookings meant agents were still by the figures on its ability to re- see the US giant take a stake of year after brochures for the fol-

steam later.

ers leaving their decisions until

work flowed through to sales.

Bob Horton: expected to increase the pressure for a bigger debt write-off

INTEREST FREE CREDIT ON HOLIDAYS AND FLIGHTS

Airways Holidays, Cosmos, P & O

Take off with The Independent and the Independent on Sunday's Fly Now Pay Later offer.

We've teamed up with Co-op Travelcare, one of the top travel agency chains in the UK, so that readers of The Independent can get up to £2,500 Interest Free Credit on holidays and flights booked through our special service. So now you can take off when you feel the inclination without paying everything up front. For example, on a holiday costing £2,500, at a typical APR of 14.9% you would save £328.

With over 300 holiday brochures and 49 airlines to choose from, there are holidays to suit everyone. Whether it's snowboarding in the Alps, a romantic weekend city break, or trekking in Nepal, you'll have the freedom to take off anytime between 1 February-31 December 1996.

How to Qualify for the Easy Pay-

Each day in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday, until Saturday 3rd February, we will print a different numbered token. In order to qualify for the Fly Now Pay Later Easy Payment Plan, you need to collect eight differently numbered tokens and keep them safe until you are ready to make your booking. Today we are printing Token 5.

How to Book Your Holiday You can select any overseas holiday available from over 300 major name brochures, subject to availability. This includes holidays from major tour operators such as British Cruises, Airtours, Surrworld, First Choice and many more. Simply pick up the brochure of your choice and select your holiday.

If you are planning to visit friends or relatives, or simply prefer the freedom to travel independently, you can choose to book scheduled flights only, provided the overall booking value meets our minimum limit of £500. There are 49 airlines to choose from, including British Airways, Virgin Atlantic, TWA, Qantas, Air France and United Airlines.

With the Fly Now Pay Later Easy Payment Plan all you pay is the cost of your holiday, plus insurance. There are no hidden extra charges, providing that you fulfil the terms of your Easy Payment agreement.

The amount of the booking is payable by Direct Debit in 10 equal monthly installments from the time of booking. At least three of these payments must be made prior to travel. If, however, you wish to travel within three months of making your booking, you may do so by pay-ing your first three installments (i.e. 30% of the cost of your holiday) at the time of booking. You are then free to make the remaining payments over the next seven months.

It is a requirement of the offer that you purchase Co-op Travelcare insurance at the time of booking. Details of the policy are available

To check that your preferred flight or holiday is available, and that it is eligible for the Easy Payment Plan, simply call The Independent/Fly Now



Pay Later helpline below:

0161 827 1044

If the holiday is available, and you meet the credit rule requirements. the Co-op Travelcare's friendly reservations staff will complete a credit application form whilst you are on

the phone. If the holiday or flight that your status can be confirmed. you require is not available, you will

be advised of alternative options. Your rating will be checked in the normal way and a decision made instantly. The agent will then call you back to advise you of your status. In some cases, you may be required to provide further information before

Once your application has been accepted, your agent will book your holiday for you. You will be asked to pay the holiday insurance premium by credit or debit card whilst

you are on the phone. Co-op Travelcare will send confirmation of your holiday booking. together with a credit agreement and Direct Debit mandate which you will be required to sign and return

in the pre-paid envelope provided. If you have the relevant brochure, you will find a booking form at the back which you must sign and return, together with your eight tokens in a separate envelope, to: The Independent Fly Now Pay Later/Coop Travelcare, Telephone Booking Centre, PO Box 53, New Century House, Manchester M60 4ES, if you do not have a brochure, you will be sent a booking form with your holiday confirmation.

If required, you can request a credit check at any time prior to booking your holiday by phoning The Independent/Co-op Travelcare number, however another check will be carried out at the time of booking to ensure that there has been no change to your status.

The Easy Payment Plan cannot be used in conjunction with any other Co-op Travelcare offer. Terms and conditions are as previously

Fly Now

Token 5

**INDEPENDENT

Fly Now Pay Never!

£25,000 of flights and holidays to be won

Today you could win a seven day holiday for two in Rome, Italy, including flights and accommodation. Experience the magnificence of this historic city with such sights as the Vatican, the Colosseum, the Sistine chapel, the Trevi fountain and the Catacombs to mention but a few. Or relax in one of Rome's countless cafes and restaurants an enjoy a real taste of Italian cuisine. To enter our competition all you need to

the Fly Now Pay Never competition line on 0891 161 985. Question: Which artist painted the cell-

ing of the Sistine chapel?

all correct entrants.

do is answer the following question and call

Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at all other times. Lines close at midnight tonight. Postal entry can be made by sending your answer, name, acdress and telephone number to: The Independent/Fly Now Pay Never Day 5, PO Box 7298, London E14 9EG by no later than 29 January 1996. The winner will be picked at random after entry closes, from

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN Edited by TOM STEVENSON

Lookers moves up another gear

underlying profits and the acquisition of Northern Ireland's largest motor dealer neatly encapsulated the motor trade's two driving themes this year. Trading is difficult and likely to remain so, and the spoils, such as they are, are being enjoyed only by large groups able to capitalise on a marked shift in the way cars are being sold in the UK.

The acquisition of the Charles Hurst group for £25.3m will be part-funded by a one-for-three rights issue at 125p a share, 19p below yesterday's un-changed close of 144p, and well below the peak of 279p reached at the start of 1994. As the chart below shows, Lookers has been one of the sector's worst performers recently, with analysts critical of the speed of its dealership development programme. Before yesterday's acquisition, the size and loca-tion of many of the group's outlets were considered pretty second-division.

For the year to September, profits slipped from £7m to £6.4m, due largely to a £435,000 charge for the closure of a Nissan depot. At 1.5 per cent of Look-er's sales of £399m, the pre-tax margin was unexceptional and underlined the problems still afflicting a business where, as the chart shows, sales are still well below their 1989 peak. Earnings per share of 15.2p were down on last year's 19p, although the payout rose 5

per cent to 7.9p. The Northern Ireland deal is probably good news for Lookers, taking it into an area of the UK economy that since 1992 has grown much faster than the average. The car market there has increased 32 per cent over that period. It has also taken Lookers into the new retailing concept of motor villages, increasingly the future of

These offer potential car buyers a range of makes on one site, in effect a car supermarket, in contrast to the traditional single franchise sites that have reflected the stranglehold manufac-turers have always held over their distribution chains.

The company has also appeared to pick up on the trend for successful dealers to increase the proportion of profits generated from used car sales. This has been crucial due to greater price 60 awareness among consumers and a savage reduction in dealer discounts offered by manufacturers where markdowns of 17 per cent have been replaced by cuts of 10 to 12 per cent. On a single-digit price/earnings mul-tiple many of the doubts about Look-

creasingly two-tier market, where the best franchises fall to the bigger more successful players, the only attraction remains a chunky 7.4 per cent yield.

Rising costs hurt Holliday

Life on the stock market has been a miserable experience for Holliday Chemical Holdings. Floated at 195p nearly three years ago, the shares have had a switchback ride and are languishing at an all-time low following yesterday's 45p plunge to 119p.

After a series of unhappy brushes

with the City, the profits warning that prompted yesterday's fall is the worst

news yet from the company.

Analysts have been revising down forecasts for 1995 since Holliday warned of difficult second-half trading conditions when it announced its interims in Angust.

But the outcome has been much

New car sales (millions)

Motor dealers : at a glance

1979 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 31 32 93 94 95 86

Share price performance over one year (%)

exceptional costs of £3.3m.

Like a string of other chemical companies forced to issue profit warnings recently, Holliday has been hit by rising raw material costs, which it has been unable to pass on in higher prices. That added £3.9m to last year's costs.

With raw materials prices cooling a little, the more worrying news from the company is the slowing of demand in the US and Continental Europe. The turndown in plastics demand hit sales of high-margin blue pigments, cutting profits by £1.8m.

But the impact of lower demand has been felt right across the group, reducing sales by £6.4m between the first and second halves.

The destocking by customers that is said to have caused the problem is thought to be at an end, but the comny admits that it does not know what the future holds.

The caution may prove to be short-lived, but it could herald a new recession in the chemicals industry.

Holliday is moving to restore its bat-tered reputation in the City by raising

worse than expected, with management efficiency, cutting an unspecified numaccounts pointing to pre-tax profits cut ber of jobs and writing down plant for

The announcement by Lookers of flat underlying profits and the acquisition underlying profits and the acquisition to the price. But in an inmonths to December, even before net prove insufficient if bleak conditions return to the industry and profits fall to, say, £14m this year. On a forward multiple of 13, they look fully valued, although at this level they could attract a bidder.

looks good

The market's reaction to yesterday's results from Unitech was gradging in the extreme. Shares in the power supplies group fell 10 p to 499p in spite of a 45 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £23m in the six months to 20 January. Sales were

plenty of growth ahead.

The oddity of this company is its 50.6 per cent stake in Nemic Lambda, a Japanese power supplies group which contributed £14m of the group's £23m profits. There has been speculation that the company may seek to dispose of part of its stake as Nemic transfers to the full Tokyo stock exchange. Unitech does not want to reduce its stake but may have to do so in order to comply with Japanese

The other cloud which is hanging over Unitech is the 20 per cent stake held by Electrowatt, a rival electronics group. Electrowatt is currently involved in the pur-

But at the trading level, longer term prospects look good. Forecasts suggest that the power supply division could grow profits by around 20 per cent a year for the next couple of years.

pected to grow and Unitech is in a strong position to grab a healthy slice, particuarly in the growing Far East market.

the shares have dipped since last September's 577p peak. A period of drift may follow until the Electrowatt position is resolved but with analysts forecasting full year profits of £49m, which puts the shares on a forward rating of 16, the shares still

There is a lot riding on Sir Rocco Forte's pledge to soldier on sans empire. Not least the continued prosperity of a

group of talented stonema-

Forte had commissioned The

craft 21 stone nameplates for

leashed its £3.9bn hostile bid

for the somnambulant group.

spared on the circular plates.

sons in Cambridgeshire.

Cambridge Workshop to

its Exclusive Hotel chain -

just before Granada un-

No expense was to be

which were to be flown to

the group's hotels around the world. Forte's design

people decreed that each

disc should be hewn from

Welsh slate, with Forte's

crown logo lovingly engraved

using the latest computer technology. Finally, a legend reading "Exclusive Hotels by

Forte" was to be carved into

the stone by hand and each letter filled in with gold

And therein lies the problem. The message does not read "Exclusive Hotels by Granada". Indeed, unless

the dethroned knight buys back the Exclusive chain

there appear to be few corporate manoeuvres that can

Rocco does buy the hotels,

the plates may need to be al-tered to read "Exclusive Ho-

"We were commissioned

to do 21 and so far have completed 11," says an exas-

perated Harry Gray, partner with The Cambridge Work-

shop. "We have been paid for half the contract but now

our funds have been frozen."

Back to the drawing

Still, Sir Rocco will have

plenty of time to muli over

his strategy. American Ex-

press tells me that he will not

be called on to make a fur-

ther contribution to the cred-

it card company's advertising

campaign. "We have no plans to use Forte in the next

justify the £500-a-piece

nameplates. Even if Sir

tels by R. Forte".

Unitech still

also up a healthy 20 per cent at £207m.

The share dip was largely due to the company's cautious noises about Euro-pean markets. It said that sales had slowed in France while profits in the US fell 13 per cent mostly due to hiccups with some military contracts. But in spite of these local difficulties Unitech still has

chase of Landis & Gyr and the Unitech stake may be sold to reduce gearing. The possibility of this stock coming on to the market at below the current price is casting a pall over the shares.

The market for power supplies is ex-

After a strong run up from 124p in 1992

and a carved slate plate

Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

Caught between a Rocco

The final European intervarsity debate at King's College London – that this house believes Europe is all mouth and no trousers - ended in a humiliating defeat for the island race. Not only was the motion defeated but the prize categories had to be altered after a scintillating piece of oratory from a Dutchman. The judges, including Lord Archer (above), were forced to rethink the somewhat condescending prize of "best Continental speaker" after the indubitably Continental Michael Boots of Leiden University walked off with the prize for best speaker. The hastily renamed prize for "best non-Continental speaker" went to Matt Guy of Oxford University.

quarter," assures a spokes-woman. Talk about kicking a man when he's down.

After 35 years Anglia, the publication that promoted the British way of life to the Russians in their own language, is about to die an ignominious death at the hands of Foreign Office cuts. Mandarins claim that the rag - which has often been used as a promotional tool for British business - is no longer relevant in a modern Russian economy dominated by a vodka-swilling matia. Besides, British business couldn't give a double-headed rouble whether it survived

language, of course).
"When it was established it was difficult to get anything open or unbiased into the Soviet press," said a For-

or perished, one mandarin

told me (in more diplomatic

eign Office man. "Now there is a proliferation of news." But, he admitted, the pressing reason for the paper's closure was the budget review demanded by HM Treasury.

Heated debate north of the border over just who has run the worst-performing Tessa (the tax-exempt special savings schemes that have just matured).

Industry statistics show the honour to rest with Royal Bank of Scotland. However, a reader assures us that the mantle truly to belongs to Bank of Scotland, which has so far avoided ridicule by not publishing its performance figures.

Either way, the big Scot-tish banks did not appear to get the hang of this Tessa business. Clydesdale also produced a bit of a dog.

-ir. 4.-y-...

Moody's ponders

DIANE COYLE **Economics Correspondent**

American financial markets were unnerved yesterday by the news that Moody's credit rating agency might downgrade a chunk of the US govern-ment's Treasury bonds. The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond lost nearly a point, while the Dow Jones industrials index was nearly 13 points lower at 5,230,20 by late morning.

Moody's vice-president, Vincent Truglia, said the growing danger of a default on its debt by the Federal government meant there was a 50 per cent chance that the agency would cut the triple-A rating of \$387bn worth of Treasury bonds falling due on 29 February and 1 April It is the first time Moody's has ever taken any negative rating

action on US Treasury bonds. Mr Truglia said Moody's had taken the Treasury at its word when it said no special measures would be available to make would be available to make payments on its debt if Congress did not extend the govern
wards solving the debt ceiling problem," he said.

The debt ceiling has been the ment's \$4,900bn debt ceiling by

The move follows a statement by Standard & Poor's earlier this fault would take Treasury bonds bonds outstanding is \$2,300bn.

don-based rating agency IBCA placed the US on a "rating

watch". Financial markets do not believe the US will default, and have been concentrating more on the likelihood of an interest rate cut next week. However, Moody's unprecedented action had politicians rushing out their

reassurances. Robert Rubin, Treasury Secretary, said he was confident Congress would pass a straightforward extension of the debt ceiling. "I'm absolutely confident that this nation will not default on its obligations for the first time in its history." He added that Moody's had helped focus attention on the problem.

Newt Gingrich, Republican Speaker of the House of Representatives, said he had had a "good talk" with President Bill Clinton. "We took a big step to-

Republicans' lever for trying to extract concessions in negotiations over how to balance the Federal Government deficit. week that even a temporary de- The total amount of Treasury

Union calls for defence US downgrade from their current triple-A to links to repel US invasion the past 20 weeks, increases by about the past 20 weeks, increases by about their forecasts by about their forecasts by about their forecasts by about the past 20 weeks, increases by about the past 20 weeks and 20 weeks are also about the past 20 weeks and 20 weeks are also 20 weeks and 20 w

RUSSELL HOTTEN

The European Commission yesterday called on governments to forge closer defence links to protect the arms in-

dustry against increasing dom-ination by US companies.

In a week when Fokker's financial crisis underlined the problems facing Europe, the EC report warned an independent arms industry can only survive through closer co-operation. Martin Bangemann, the Eu-

ropean Industry Commissioner, called for a common approach to defence procurement, import duties, and a buy-Europe policy to protect thousands of jobs. Such comments will cause concern in the US, the main ex-

porter of defence equipment to Europe. But Mr Bangemann said: "We want to improve our competitive situation. If the United States doesn't like it -I cannot change that." But Mr Bangemann linked his call for closer co-operation with the eventual need for a

the British government. The UK's decision last year to-door

Tiger, tiger: Britain's decision last year to buy American-made Cobra helicopters rather than the European Tiger (above) caused particular consternation in the EU

to buy American-made Cobra helicopters rather than the European-made Tiger, was greeted with particular concern by other EU members. Between 1988 and 1992, EU nations imported almost \$18bn (£12bn) worth of arms from the US while exporting less than \$1bn back. And between 1984 and 1992, the EU's industry shed 600,000 of its 1.6 million jobs, mostly in France, Britain. Germany, Italy and Sweden. At \$65bn, the EU's defence in-

dustrial output is less than half

common European defence

and security policy, something

that will be resisted by many in

ending arms-related customs duties between EU member states, with the possibility of increasing those on US imports to the maximum rate allowed by the World Trade Organisation. Joint procurement on some European defence projects would save EU budgets as much as \$14.5bn a year, Mr

Bangemann believes. But with defence industries so intertwined with national ambitions, co-operation on joint ventures is rare.

operate cross-border alliances.

Mr Bangemann proposed hindered by national political to unbridled competition would considerations.

At last year's CBI conference. Dick Evans, chief executive of BAe, spoke of the urgent need for deeper co-operation and rationalisation to meet the US

The speech was warmly welcomed by the Defence Procurement Minister, James Arbuthnot, who urged the Goverament to co-operate with its European partners to bring about change.

Mr Evans said: "With the Eu-British Aerospace and GEC ropean defence industry in its such as a proposed missiles perate cross-border alliances, current fragmented state, simmerger between British Aeroalthough further integration is ply throwing the market open space and France's Matra.

be yet further invitation for US companies to slice their way into Europe." Eurofighter 2000, the largest European collaborative arms project, recently moved a step closer to produc-

tion, but it is far from airborne. Companies from Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain cooperate on Eurofighter, but it has been plagued by cost overruns and technology problems.

But it may help smooth the way to further integration between European industries,

IN BRIEF

Sales on the rise at Burton

Burton said it had shrugged off fragile consumer confidence over the past 20 weeks, increasing sales 5.9 per cent. Analysis upgraded their forecasts by about £8m to £128m, unworried by a small de-

Tugenhadt takes chair at Blue Circle

Abbey National's chairman, Lord Tugenhadt, is poised to succeed Sir Peter Walters as non-executive chairman of Blue Circle. Lord Tugenhadt, who is also a non-executive director of BOC and Eurotunnel, will succeed Sir Peter after May's annual meeting.

Midland unloads 3i stake

Midland Bank has offloaded its remaining 2.6 per cent stake in the venture capitalist 3i. James Capel placed 30 million shares at 404p. Midland reduced its 3i stake from 5.3 to 2.6 per cent as part of last June's £440m share sale by four bank shareholders. Lloyds and the Bank of England sold their stakes, while Barclays lowered its holding from 5.5 per cent to 2.7 per cent.

Heald moves in at Hepworth

Hepworth has appointed Malcolm Heald as finance director. He had previously held the same position at First Choice, the holiday company, and replaces Robert Lambourne. Before joining First Choice, Mr Heald was with Jacques Vert and Kingfisher's property subsidiary, Chartwell Land.

Cookson buys rest of Alpha

The diversified industrial group Cookson has bought the remaining 50 per cent in Alpha Metals of Japan from its joint venture partner, Electroplating Engineers, of Japan for \$1bn. The venture, set up in 1989, supplies solder paste, chemicals and laser-cut stencils to Japan's big electronic manufacturers.

Barbour Index profits slip

Profits at Barbour Index slipped 18 per cent as the information group incurred higher new service development costs. They fell from £1.9m to £1.57m. Barbour warned that the increased costs might not be matched by revenue and full-year results would therefore "not be materially different" from last year's £2m. Analysts had expected about £3m and the shares fell 16p to 295p.

Sales heat up at Kenwood

Third-quarter sales at Kenwood Appliances are well up on last year, the domestic appliance group has announced. UK operations were the star performer in the period, with sales 24 per cent higher, but the two Italian businesses acquired in November 1993 have also done well. Excluding the Italian operations, Kenwood's sales worldwide were ahead by 16 pct, including the 24 per cent uplift in the UK. Kenwood's shares jumped 12p to 270p yesterday.

Looking up at Danka

Dan Doyle, chief executive of Danka, said he was pleased with third-quarter profits at the photocopier supplier, which showed growth of 60 per cent before exceptional severance costs. After

COMPANY RESULTS				
	Taraover £	Pre-lax £	EP\$	Dividend
Surbour Index (I)	6.6Qm (6.58m)	1.57m (1.92m)	6.2p (7.7p)	3.0g (2.85p)
Churchibury Ests (1)	2.11m (1.80m)	1.64m (1.49m)	12.5p (11.4p)	1월 (-)
Daniel Bus Sys (Q3)	214m (129m)	10.2m (11.5m)	3.6p (4.2p)	- (-)
Geodlesid Greep (1)	16.3m (13.5m)	0.45m (0.08m)	0.8p (-0.1p)	0.05p (nil)
Jasob (I)	3.01m (2.42m)	0.15m (0.09m)	3.75p (2.21p)	(M) \$6
Lookers (F)	130m (151m)	6.4m (7.9m)	15.2p (19p)	7.9p (7.5p)
ML Laboratories (F)	1.14m (0.81m)	-3.4m (-2.27m)	-2.5p (-1.7p)	mil (-)
Unitech (I)	207.m: (173m)	22.9m (15.6m)	14.5p (11p)	2.96р (2.57р)
4D Wood (f)	3.65m (3.69m)	0.23m (0.30m)	1.8p (2.3p)	0.75p (0.75p)
Wiggles (I)	2.06m (1.84m)	0.37m (0.17m)	0.074p (0.035p)	nii (nii)
Witan Investment (F)	. (-)	24 Eds (24 2m)	A Silver of America	

JD Wood confident of housing recovery

NIC CICUTTI

that of the US.

John D Wood & Co, the upmarket estate agent, yesterday voiced "quiet confidence" in the likelihood of a housing market recovery, despite a 23 per cent fall in profits for the six months

to the end of October last year. The company announced that its pre-tax profits dropped to £231,000 from £301,000 in the same period in 1994. The fall came despite virtually unchanged turnover of £3.65m over that period.

down and our expenditure has including Halifax, are talking risen slightly, which clearly affected our profits. But we feel these costs will be absorbed over the full year, so that overall expenditure should fall. As for the

future, in the past year the housing market has been lambasted in the wake of an attack on the Government. 'We are now looking at a sit-

George Pope, joint-chairman is a greater move towards own-of JD Wood, said: "Our turnover has gone a little bit increasing numbers of people, about how the market is getting better. We think things will improve in the coming year."

JD Wood's chain of agencies, nine in the central London area plus seven others mainly in the South-East, generally saw a buoyant market, he added.

Demand for property in the better streets and squares of uation where interest rates are central London, in particular continuing to come down, there Kensington, Knightsbridge and

Chelsea, has led to record prices over the last six months," said Ian Homersham, the other joint-chairman. "Our lettings and manage-

produced a near 20 per cent increase in turnover. "In the country, movement has been restricted by the lack of property coming onto the

ment department has again

market as potential vendors await better circumstances. Nonetheless, well-situated period houses continue to sell if correctly priced."



Door-

Abu

Dhabi.

DATA BANK

FT-SE 100 3734.2 -24.0 FT-SE 250

4086.7 -0.2

1854.5 -9.4

SEAQ VOLUME

1.01bn shares,

35,387 bargains

SHARE SPOTLIGHT

British Biotech

-0.05

FT-SE 350

Gilts Index

96.1

27**0**

<u>ष्टार्</u>गः इत्यु

) |-----| |-----| . چنون ا موسوسی الله الله ما ماه آیا _ _ _ _

Fund manager MAM could find itself a bid target

Are the tables about to be turned on Mercury Asset Management? The fund management group, which played a pivotal role in the bitter bid bat the buttures. Greatly and the same dealers as a second of the control of the tle between Granada and Forte, may find itself on the end of a bid, according to rumours circulating around the market yesterday.

Shares in MAM moved notable in the careful disease.

tably in the opposite direction to the rest of the market and closed the session sporting a rise of 15p to 883p. That price values the company, which was last year demerged from Warburg when the merchant bank was bought by Swiss Bank Cor-

poration, at more than £1.6bn. Turnover in the tightly held MAM stock was quite chunky at almost 3 million, amid gos-sip that a bid pitched in excess of £10 a share was on the way.

The cash-rich National Westminster Bank, which apparently recently ran its slide

mentioned by some dealers as having looked at buying MAM, which ranks second only to Prudential in terms of funds under management. At the last count MAM's funds were

put at £72bn. Some analysts reckon that MAM, already knee-deep in cash, made more than £100m out of the Granada bid. Its annual results for 1994 showed a cash balance of £162m and only £26m of short-term debts.

Separately, MAM has boosted its holding in Thorn EMI, which is soon to announce its demerger plans, by almost a full percentage point to 12 per cent. Thorn, 3p higher in early trading, finished 4p

down at £16.39p. For the rest of the market,

MARKET REPORT JOHN SHEPHERD

ers tumbled with the temperature in London. The FT-SE 100 share index lost all of the previous day's gains - which took it to a record - with a 24-point drop to 3,734.2.

Investors were quite content to pocket profits, and brokers took plenty of commission fees from more than 35,000 deals that resulted in a very high 1 billion shares changing hands.

A large part of the day's trading came courtesy of some special situations. More than 6 per cent of the session's total business was in BAA, steady at 496p, as the Government placed its remaining stake. Total vol-

Shares in Forte, which lost its takeover battle earlier this week, were also heavily traded, with 20 million going through the books. Granada, which could

end up selling hotels back to Sir Rocco Forte, fell 3p to 704p. Second-line stocks, buoyed by yet more takeover rumours, fared considerably better than the leaders. The FT-SE 250 in-dex fell just 0.2 of a point to 4,086.7 and the FT All-Share

rose 0.5 per cent to 1,837.17. Takeover speculation continued to run rife in the breweries, pubs and restaurants sector. Guessing what Whithread, 0.5p easier at 690p, will buy has become an established game.

Wetherspoon, the pub company, which added 7p to 741p. Regent Inns, also rumoured as a possible target for Whit-bread, hit a peak 737p with a rise of Sp.

Falls were recorded by some share prices that have been buoved recently by takeover rumours. This group included Vaux Group, down 2p 296p, MyKinda Town, off a penny to

131p, and Group Chez Gerard, which lost 2p to 238p. The market's appetite for biotech stocks remained insatiable - particularly for British Biotech, which spurted 70p to £22.38p. The shares traded at 500p last autumn.

Ian White, analyst at Robert Fleming, reiterated his buy recommendation for British Biotech. There was talk that the shares could run up consider-

ably higher, and even top £30. The biotech sector is now setting fresh highs on a daily

terday saw Cantab Pharmaceuticals rocket 85p to 530p. Cortecs International sprint 33p to 270p, and Scotia Holdings climb 19p to 603p. ML Laboratories, traded on the USM, increased 46p to 457p

on a £25m placing to fund de-velopment of its Icodial dial-ysis solution. Elsewhere, Binebird Toys
was lifted by the Mattel
takeover move for Hasbro,
and closed 15p better at 339p.
Hasbro has a 7 per cent stake
in Bluebird, which in turn has
many of its toys distributed has many of its toys distributed by Mattel

Maiden results from Jasmin traded on AIM, went down well. The shares, floated at 88p last November, climbed 12p to

Among the main fallers were Standard Chartered, down 26.5p to 636p, as the company issued a statement saying it knew of no reason for its recent

TAKING STOCK

There was strong demand for shares in Aegis, up 1.5p to 43p. Morgan Grenfell Asset Management was said to be a big buyer of stock in the media-buying agency, which has a lengthy blue-chip client has a lengthy one-cmp clier list featuring Kellogg's, Leri's, and Asda. The Euro-pean-wide \$200m-billing

Overseas, traded on AIM. The price yesterday rose 2p to 21p as buyers appeared on the scene. There are ramours that the company, headed by Geoffrey Mad-drell, former head of Tootal

and ProShare, may be look-

prise, the Internet access

ing separately to float Enter-

provider in which it has a 30

Ostributors 25 204 Making 10 - 42 16 2502 100 16 27 20 27 20 17 20 17 20 27 20 27 20 1	JEMAM J JASOND J patently recently ran its slide rule over the Gartmore fund	For the rest of the market, its rem the session was one to forget. ume in	naining stake. Total vol- BAA was 63 million. A further high was set	by JD basis. Other movements yes-	strong share price performance. per cent stake.
See Color Co	### 19	## Advanced ## 19 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20	Stock Price City 10 Price City	1985/86 Stock File Fil	Priose or in attering except where stated. The yield is list years' divident, proceed up by 22 per core, as a percentage of the share price. The provisionary (price that years' samples divided by last years' y
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Column C	Peige
Monoy Market Roles When the state of the st	The content of the
Company Comp	Company Comp

reles

*Celestial challenge for champion **Index: an interesting out- potential of their horses. Maintenant admitted as must

Es Exchange Rates

斯達地 高新生物

The short-term plans for many of the country's best jumpers may be frustrated by the latest cold snap, but one trainer at least is playing a longer game. Kim Bailey, who completed the Champion Hurdle and Gold Cup double at last year's Cheltenham Festival, said vesterday that Alderbrook, the champion hurdler, is on course to defend his title, a possibility which looked distinctly remote when two chips of hone were re-moved from his knee last May.

Last season, Bailey famously saddled Alderbrook to win the timber championship after

Alderbrook's chance at Chel-tenham became clear after suc-cess in the Kingwell Hurdle at Wincanton in February, and that race is again the target for his seasonal reappearance.
"He is in full work at present

and we are ahead of schedule compared with last year as we have had him a lot longer," Bailey said yesterday. "I couldn't be more happy with him." The trainer is also considering his options if the cold weather persists. "If for some reason he had to miss the Kingwell, and he had to go straight to Cheltenham, it would not be a worry," he said.

Bailey also reports Master Oats, the Gold Cup winner, to be in excellent health as he prejust nine weeks in his care. A
Group Two winner on the Flat.

Cup at Leopardstown on Sunday week. "He's in good form pares for the Hennessy Gold

and either Charlie Swan or Jamie Osborne will ride." Cold weather robbed Tony McCoy of the chance to record the fastest century in National Hunt history before Christmas,

but with similar conditions im-

minent, he was taking no chances at Wincanton yesterday. McCoy rode the first two winners at the West Country track, and in the process added another clipping to his now bulging file of praise. "Let's be fair, you can't find a better jockey for one that has to be pushed out." Milton Bradley said after watching McCoy cajole Zingibar to victory in the opening race, "Tony said the horse was

having second thoughts going woody. Dobbin's name was bedown the far side, but once he ing inked in rather than rubbed hit the front he was okay." out yesterday, however, fol-Half an hour later, McCoy lowing his booking to ride Chief

2.00 ANNESLEY LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,700 added 6f Penalty Value £2,572

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Dissentor was three lengths too good for KIRA in a course and distance handicap a fortunging ago but he couldn't cope with the subsequent 9th rise here on Monday, firishing only fifth behind Daawe. With Jason Weaver on board, Dissentor isn't easily niled out but the weights here francur Kira, who is 15th better off. Awasha stays a mile but the closest she's come to winning a race was over this trip at Unglied last time out, when she ran Mylinha to a head, if sire's as effective on Fibresand, and the first-time blinkers have the desired effect, Awasha is the one Kira has to beat. Flery Footsteps was only inches behind Awasha in Mylinha's race at Unglied but is 10th worse off now. As he's so lightly raced, Warm Hearted can improve more than most and wouldn't have to do a great deal better than at Lingfield last jurie to make his presence fet. He had subsequent winners Milos and Random behind when fifth to Pageboy. Penther would have a chance at his best and won a conditions race first time up last year, at Wolverhampton.

2.30 DANETHORPE MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS E) £4,500 added 370 1m Penalty Value £3,075

FORM GUIDE

YEOMAN OLIVER finished behind Kingdom Princess when both ran for the first time here 150 in November, but Yeoman Oliver turned the form round in Coachella's race at Wolverhampton and went on to run his best race so far when besting all ber Dancing Cavaller in a 15-numer handicap one course and distance on Monday. Clearly going the right way recomen Ones looks good enough to land this malder, although the newcomer Mofassa commands respect and could pose him some problems. Mofassa is a half-brother to Michael Laz, successful on both turl and the all-weather for Bit O'Gorman, who could easily have the cold ready to win first time. Although well beaten on her one previous attempt on Fibresand, Threesocks was making her debut. She showed ability at Chepstow afterwards and this prosesents a drop in class after her final three-year-old state at Sandown. Byen Smart and Rey Cochrane Leemed up to win here recently with Sharp Gazelle. Green Gent's close fourth behind Mask Flower at Lingfield (6f) suggests she can win a little race but she must put behind her a below-par nit there last time out.

Selection: YEOMAN OLIVER.

3.00 CARLTON-ON-TRENT HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,450 added 3YO 7f Penalty Value £3,709

10200-4 SHONTARE (15) (Paul Dean) M Johnston 9 7 J. Wasner 1620-12 WEETMAN'S WEIGH (7) (2) (26) (E. Weetman Haulage) R Hollinshead 9 5 J. M Wajaan 2100-5 CHURANG BANG (8) (An Candrolf) Jenny B 11 J. PRoberts (7) 005-3 YOUNG FREDERICK (13) (Ms Elane M Burke) h Burke 8 9 J. Adalony (7)

(3046-4 FOREMAN (4) (Times of Wigary W O'Gorman 8 5. Emmi (20-304 GHOSTLY APPARTION (3) (Aks Dane Uppan) John R Uppan 8 4. (100-31 BRIBANDONS (9) (0) (G E Griffiths S Bourning 8 4 (Se)) — 7 declared —

BETTING: 5-2 Westman's Weigh, 3-1 Briganouse, 4-1 Young Frederick, 6-1 Chillowng Bang, Formen, 15-2 Shortsine, 14-1 Ghostly Appartion

FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Briganoone was only beaten four lengths and a neck by WEETMAN'S WEIGH over six furlongs here on January 5 but is only 21b better off the afternoon, having picked up a penalty for his narrow win at Wolverhampton in the meantime. But that Wolverhampton success
shows that Briganoone is well suited by this destance, whereas Weetman's Weigh is to good form, though, and should go well
again after rumning Seeking Destiny to a neck last Friday. Childhang Bang was only two and
a had lengths behind Briganoone at Wolverhampton and has a 6th pull today, white Young
Frederick has useful 7th-claimer Tom Ashley on board and is on the upgade judged on
his third behind Sovereign Prince in a handicap over this timp at Lingfield. Formain has much
respectably in much beger fields than today's on his last two visits, the latest last Monday
in the race won by Danoing Cavaler (who is from the same stable as Weetman's Weigh).
but might not as much room for improvement.

3.30 FACKLEY SELLING STAKES (CLASS F) (SELLING SERIES QUALIFIER) £3,750 added 3YO 7f Penalty Value £2,607

FORM GIADE

Forget LOCH STYLE's latest run, when he was mistaken for four-year-old stablemate Tarayer and took on older horses over a far-from-surable mile and a half. Loch Style's earlier
effors at Wowerhampton, the first over an extended mile and the second over six furings,
suggest he has what it takes to wim a race of this sort. Welsh Melody won a filtes' seller
at Woherhampton last July but she's come back to from only expected.

suggest he has what it takes to win a race of this sort. Welsh Melody win a fillies' seller at Welserhampton last. July but she's come back to form only recently, with the aid of binders. Welsh Melody has the beating of Dragonjoly on their running behind Guy's Gambile hate. It days ago but, since he was fitted with the headgear himself, Dragonjoly has yet to run a poor race at this lavel and could be in the money. Convent Guest is another with a chance after her debut run behind Charterhouse Xpres at Lingfield (5ft). She can improve for the expenence and over the longer journey. Tickin Tickia Tinting comes into the rectoring on his third to Dragonjoly here in November, white Hever Golf Diamond can figure prominently now he drops into a seller with Jason Weaver taking over.

Selection: LOCH STYLE.

4.00 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER SERIES HANDICAP (QUALIFIER) (CLASS F) (DIV II) £3,250 added 1m Penalty Value £2,471

KINGCHIP BOY can complete the hat-tinck, because today's opposition looks no tougher than that he left trailing here on Monday. Moreover, the seven-year-old picks up no extra peranty. Roy Bowning's horses are acting over nicely and Genesis Four will have benefited from its outing behind Warturst here earlier this month, while Mislemani shaped well in two races here tourists he end of 1995 and should make a race of it. Judged on two wins here easy last year for Mishael Chapman, Po's Grusser is thadly handcapped, but whether he can cope with Kingdup Boy is another matter.

Selection: KINGCHIP BOY.

- 10 declared -BETHNR: 10-11 King-hip Boy, 6-1 Genesis Fort, 7-1 Mislemani, 12-1 Dar Robert, 14-1 Din Georgy, 16-1 Breek Box, 20-1 others FORM SUIDE

6 5-6 (ONGDOM PRINCESS (15) (6 B Turbul 1 Inf) M Carecho 8 9 ...
7 656 THREESOCKS (136) (A H Burks B Smart 8 9 ...
7 declayed - 7 declayed - 7 declayed - 8 ETTING: 5-4 Yeoman Giver, 11-4 Midiata, 5-1 Targetocks, 6-1 Green G

Minister, an interesting out-sider, in the Champion Hurdle. by Samlee, and in particular the Chief Minister was partnered horse's attempt to separate the 13th fence from its foundaby Peter Hobbs, now retired, tions, to go clear on the run-in when second in the Fighting Fifth Hurdle at Newcastle two and win by five lengths. months ago. "Chief Minister goes to Cheltenham with live Tony Dobbin's fortunes have not been quite as exceptional as each-way prospects and I've had a decent bet on him at RICHARD EDMONDSON 50-1," Graham Shiel, his own-NAP: Modest Hope er, said yesterday. "He's won six hurdle races since I bought him (Southwell 12.40) NB: Mr Moriarty two years ago and he's come

on One Man, the Gold Cup Minister for Cheltenham. favourite, by Richard Dun-Alderbrook's win last March, and the £170,000 on offer for this year's Champion, awoke many owners of useful Flat

back fresh and well from his win-

ter break." Punters who share Shiel's optimism will find book-

potential of their horses. Mark Johnston admitted as much yesterday when he said that Celestial Key, a classy Flat hand-icapper, will make his hurdling debut in early March before a possible trip to the Festival.

"It's not ideal but you can't

run them if they're not fit," Johnston said. "It's true to say that people have jumped on the Alderbrook bandwagon, but to take it seriously we probably should have started earlier. But I'm not ruling him out as he's definitely the right kind of horse for the job."

Celestial Key is not to be con-

ies offering 40-1 about Chief fused with Celestial Choir, another Champion entry who has yet to run over hurdles. This gap in her education should be filled at Musselburgh on Tuesperformers to the all-year round day, according to Les Eyre, the are each-way.



six-year-old's trainer. "We were going to go for the Supreme Novices' Hurdle but she's been such a great servant, winning £40,000, that when the entry stage came round we thought, what's another £300?"

Both Celestial Key and Celestial Choir are at least 50-1 chances in ante-post lists. If Alderbrook is indeed on the way back, make sure that any bets

Tote Direct starts to take laughing stock out of the Quadpot

Frost threat to Doncaster and Lingfield Both today's turf cards at Lingfield and Doncaster are threat-row, there will be an inspection ficials reported that, although ened by frosty weather and at 10.45am today. One Man is the ground was frost-free yesinspections will take place at due to race at Cheltenham. terday a poor weather forecast 7.30am and 7am respectively.

SOUTHWELL

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers are best over 50 Filoroscand surface; left-hand sharp, oval course.

Course is fan W of Newark at Rolleston, Rolleston Junction rathway station adjours the

course: ADMISSION: Club (12. Tattersalls LG) (DAP members of course's Demond Club 5.1, no ompanied under-) Gs freet. CAR PARK: Free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH BUNNERS: D Chapman — 41 wainers from 397 run-

ners at a ratio of 10.3% giving a less to a \$1 level stake of \$122.74; \$ Norton — 35 winners, 172 runners, 20.3%, +\$25.80, R Hollinshead — 35 winners, 361 runners, 9.73%, \$41.66.66, T D Barron — 33 winners, 200 runners, 15.3%, +\$17.60.

□ LEADING JOCKEYS: J Quinn — 40 winners, 178 rides, 8.4%, 4217 43; L Dettori
 □ Winners, 185 roles, 21.1%, 5.3.78, J Weaver — 36 winners, 290 rides, 19%, 4519.02;
 Dean McKeown — 33 winners, 257 rides, 12.8%, 4571.08.

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: So Amazing (1.05) won here on Friday; Kingchip Boy

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Warm Hearted (2.00) & Mislemani (4.00) travel 2:0 mle- from A New ombo's Yarnscombe saible in Devon: Father Dan (12.40) & Awasha

(1.20) travels 156 miles from Discount Survey Hill stable in Gwent; Pentnyswen (1.20) travels 156 miles from Discount Burchell's Briery Hill stable in Gwent; Hever Golf Dia-

mond (G.39) covers 147 miles from T.J. Nanghaon's Epsom yard in Surrey; Grey Charmer (2.30) travels 1.03 nules from C. James' East Garmon stable in Berkshire; Sharp Thrill (1.50) & Threesocks (2.30) cover 102 miles from B. Smart's Lambourn yard in Berkshire;

12.40 BALDERTON AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV i) £3,200 added 1m 4f Penalty Value £2,222

Minutum weight 9:77b. True handcap weight Nebrarghs Sxt 11b. BETTRIK: 11-4 Gold Blade, 7-2 Feither Den, 4-1 Major Snogfit, 6-1 Claustry Beath, 8-1 Modest Hope, Comtac's Legend. 10-1 Tempering, 20-1 Junction Twentytwo, 25-1 others 1995: no corresponding facebing

GOLD BLADE was having his first race in four months when runner-up to Royal Circus at Lingücid on Saturday and he'd have a good chance of giving away the weight if he can im-prove a length or two on that performance. The fact that Father Dan was favounte for that

prove a length or two on that performance. The fact that Father Dan was favourite for that unglisid event means he can't be ruled out but, even though he didn't enjoy the run of the race, he's been on the go a while and the handcapper might have hold of him for now. Mark Rimeli is an eyecatching booking for Major Shugfit, a fair fourth of 16 behind Adaloation here on its latest outling and blinkered for the first time since his two-year-old days, while the very experienced Stephen Swers comes in for the ride on Chautry Beath. Chantry Beath hasht run on this surface before but that didn't stop stablemates such as Peggy Spancer and Stand Tall running well first time on Fibresand. Tempering's last will was back in January last year — but it was an amateurs' handcap for today's nider, Rosemany Clark, and in a good day the old horse might still be able to set too strong a galoot for most of his opponents.

Selection: GOLD BLADE

1.05 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER SERIES HANDICAP (QUALIFIER) (CLASS F) (DIV I) £3,250 added 1m Penalty Value £2,471

10 000/05: LEEDONS PARK (163) (Abbots Salfort Carsven Park) M W Easterby 4 7 10 .1. Chargo

- 10 declared -

BETTING: 11.4 So Assexing, 4-1 Komiamatic, 11-2 Burrel Of Hope, 6-1 Bakers Daughter, 8-1 Jul-stald, 10-1 Indiatora, 12-1 The Mestral, 14-1 See God, Bogart, 20-1 Leedons Park

Having just got the better of Peggy Spencer on her first run here, So Amezing had to show plenty of determination to hold off another decent filly, Cashmere Lady, last Finday and, pro-

oried those races haven't left their mark, she must have a chance of making it three in a

row, despite carrying a big weight over the extra furlong. So Amazing might not be allowed to dictare the pace, though, because The Mestral (from an in-form yaid) thed to make all on her last visit and Cashmere Lady's stablemate. BARREL OF HOPE, does best from the

on her last visit and Cashmere Lady's stablemate, BARREL OF MOPE, does best from the mont. I.o., Last autumn, Barrel of Hope was caught close home in a 23-numer handicap at York before making all to best an even bigger field at Newbury and he ran by no means badly on his last visit here, finishing third to the progressive Mapile Bay and the In-form Benjamins Law. Komiamatike, up against Mingship Boy last time, is a possibility, along with Bakers Debighter, whose second to Robelton in a fair event at Lingfield shows she's run into form and must be respected. One that could go really well at a big price is Bogjant, bearing in mind that Ray Cochrane won three races on Lam Fort for Chris Fadinust early last year.

1.30 BALDERTON AMATEUR RIDERS HANDICAP (CLASS F) (DIV 1) £3,200 added 1m 4f Penalty Value £2,222

304005 STREAKY HAWK (USA) (39) (Jeff Pearce) J Pearce 4 12 0 ...

___C Teague (5) 6

.....F Lyach (7) 4 (7) 3 (5) 5

4436-11 SO AMAZING (7) (C) (C Peats) Miss S Hall 4 10 1 (Ge)

0055-03 THE MESTRAL (11) (Tim Corby) M Ryan 480.

12.40 Modest Hope

1.30 Mr Moriarty

2.00 Kira (nb)

GOING: Standard

STALLS: Inside:

SIS

1.05 SO AMAZING (nap)

At Ayr, due to race tomor- ings to the weather, Course ofwhich has lost its last two meet- would hasten an inspection.

2.30 Yeoman Oliver

3.00 Weetman's Weigh

3.30 Convent Guest

The Tote's Quadpot, in which since its inception, became a bet a pool of £2,297 at Wincanton, the aim is to find placed horses in the third, fourth, fifth and six races on a card, and which has produced risibly small pools

_____ Tate 5

(Southwell 1.30)

McCoy's this season, not least

when he was jocked off the ride

in the 2,200 betting shops that £1,656 of the £1,749 pool came have the Tote Direct facility. Of through the new facility.

DONCASTER

SIS RACING

LOO Ask Me Kindly 1.35 Lets Get Lost 2.05

Go Universal 2.35 Shankar 3.10 Aly Daley 3.40 Lochnagrain 4.10 Take Cover

GOING: Chuse, - Good to Firm; Hurdles - Good.

Left-hand, peur-shaped nouse.

Course is E of town off the AG'8 (M18 Jets 3 & 4). Bus link

from Doneaster Central station. ADMISSION: (Jub 514; Grand-stand 5B; Family Enclosure 53 (under-16s free). CAR PARK: Free.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: 11 horses have been sent 167 miles from Upper Lambourn in Berkshire.

1.00 CUSWORTH NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 3m 110yds

E4,000 added 3m 110yds

1 3 AS ME KINDLY (65) 0 Shenood 6 10 12 _____ JA McCarthy
2 05:00 P DALLAI (21) SHIRTS 5 10 12 _____ S O'Doesed (7)
3 6260-30 FLOKING UNE (13) (RF) E Alson 8 10 12 ____ R Gracinty
4 00-F HARRYS SPECIAL (13) M Hammond 6 10 12 ____ R Gandity
5 0-25640 RUSTIERS ** KRAMEN (1934) (9) J Marke 5 10 12 ____ R Gandity
6 LA CHANCE O Brennan 6 10 12 _____ R Mr A Welster
7 0 SOUDONYM (22) M Avison 5 10 12 _____ E Callagium (5)
8 66-400 SPACEARE GOLD (14) 100 7 10 12 _____ E Callagium (5)
9 420 STAR PERFORMER (67) Mrs M Receive 5 10 12 _____ E Upton
10 PD _UST (PHILLS (264) Mrs M Receive 5 10 12 _____ R Mrs Market
10 PD _UST (HTILLS (264) Mrs M Receive 5 10 12 _____ R Double
11 10-63 MRSS OPTRMET (15) D McNoben 6 10 7 _____ W Market
12 64404 PASIA (15) S Gating 5 10 7 _____ A Double
12 61404 PASIA (15) S Gating 5 10 7 _____ A Double
13 ETTING: 2-1 Star Performer, 5-2 Ask Net Mady, 9-2 Miss Optimist, 8-1 Per14 (15) MRSS (15) R CONNET (16) PART (16) R Mrs (16) R PART (16) R PART

1.35 SELBY COND. NOVICE HANDICAP HUR-DLE (CLASS F) £2,850 2m 110yds

8 003000 BESCART (BRIL (STIR) M Tato 5 10 13 PMcLonglais
9 150 CERACISA (41) (D) J Mecine 4 10 12 First 10
10 06103 TANSEEQ (6) (D) M Mecine 5 10 11 B Harding
11 0-500 EIA MAN HOMA (12) N Trifer 5 10 11 E Hasbent
12 45-P00 PRINCE SKYBURD (6) M Avison 5 10 6 E Cubegins
13 5F515-1 MILL OTHE RASS (78) (D) Ms 0 Hove 7 10 6 A Heges
14 000 BARKWETTE (13) Ms M Reveloy 4 10 1 6 652F3 LOTTLE TINCTURE (42) Ms 7 M Somer 6 10 0 A Procto

2.05 DONCASTER SPONSORSHIP CLUB HYCAP

HYPERION

1.10 Drum Battle 1.45 Megamunch 2.15 Akr

Shot 2.45 Supreme Genotin 3.20 Spuffington

INSPECTION: 7.30am

GOING: Soft (Heavy in places).

Left-hand, sharp undulsting course, Run-in of 200yds.

Left-hand, sharp undulsting course, Run-in of 200yds.

Course is SE of fown on BCCC3. Lingfield station adjoins course.

ADMISSION: All enclosures 53. CAR PARE: Club 53; rest free.

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Red Spectacle (1.10) & Mac's
Taxi (2.45) has been sent 270 miles by P Hastam from Middleham, N Yorks; Smolemak (2.45) sent 288 miles by J Berry from
Cocketham, Lancs.

1.10 ASHURST HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,200

1.45 WORTH WOOD SELLING HANDICAP HUR-

inimum weight: 10sz. Tue-paraditation weight: Bay Bob Sat 11th, Rafiq Sat Bib, onterecubio Belle Sat 7th, Veno Sat St. ETPIRS: 7-8 Inggresench, 5-5 Minister's Nachum, 6-1 Comy Weather, Desert resident, 7-1 Fabriana, 9-1 Bay Bob, 10-1 others

2.15 ADVENTURE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m

DLE (CLASS G) £2,600 2m 110yds

added 4YO 2m 3f 110vds

3.50 Tickerty's Gift 4.20 Ima Delight

– 15 da Minimum veight: 10st. True handicap veight: Little Tincture 9st 91b. BETTING: 4-1 Tansaeq, 5-1 hijd O'The Rags, 8-1 Little Tincture, Royal Chia-son, 10-1 Princess Missine, Let's 9st Lost, Bank'n'bite, 12-1 others

LINGFIELD

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

worth winning yesterday when it became available to punters Tote Direct, while at Lingfield

Mark Openshaw, Tote Direct's marketing manager, said:
"It has had a bad press but we've
now proved that we can get pools big enough to justify the bet."

6 1155-30 ONE FOR THE POT (21) Mrs A Naughton 11 10 9 ____ T Jenks 7 31F1/3-4 CORRARDER (57) J Old 12 10 8 _____ Mr J Sonyth-Optionane 8 123L/24 HOUSHFOR (22) (8F) J H Johnson 10 10 7 ______ P Curberry ___ 8 declared ___ BETTING: 5-4 Go Universel, 7-2 Lake Mission, 4-1 Wind Force, 7-1 Rodeo Star, 8-1 Dark Ose, 10-1 Converter, 14-1 others

2.35 ROSSINGTON MAIN NOVICE HURDLE

(CLASS A) (GRADE 2) 215,000 at 110,100 at 112,100 at 11

- 8 decigned -BETTING: 2-1 Speedwelf Priscs, 5-2 Shaniar, 11-4 Backgammon, 6-1 Mes-ter Beveled, 8-1 Solomon's Dencer, 18-1 Northern Union, 20-1 others

3.10 SANDALL BEAT NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE

(CLASS D) £5,500 added 3m

- 5 declared -BETTING: 7-4 Universal Magic, 5-2 Farmer's Hund, 7-2 Aly Daley, 5-1 Jar-

3.40 BALBY NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2m 110yds

4.10 LEVY BOARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT

RACE (CLASS H) £1,650 2m 110yds

PRACE (CLASS H) £1,650 2m 110yds

THE ANSEL LEEK (28th P Been 6 11 9 JMr R Thornton (7)
BLOWN WIND O Sherwood 5 11 7 JA INCCURDY
CASHEL QUAY Mr. P Boderton 6 11 7 Sery Levie (3)
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P NOUNT LODGE (NO) MS 1 LINES 5 11 8 _______ | Hammon POSETIVO MSS C Carole 5 11 8 ______ | Linestone D-P RAMESLING ON (89) C Dreve 6 11 8 ______ | M A Ricgerabl O ROYAL HAND (KS) M Mangapark 6 11 8 ______ | M J Caleby (7) 1-C SUPPREME GENOTIVE (23) (M of 7 11 8 ______ | 1 Osborose CO SWEWSHING SECRES (7) G L Moore 5 11 8 _____ | A P MicCoy

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£7,000 added 3m

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3.20 FELCOURT HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C)

1121-2P EDMINOURG (1A) Miss H Knets 10 12 D ... Mr J Callety (7

3.50 LIGHTWEIGHT PLASTERING NOVICE HCAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,200 2m 3f 110yds

00026 DESERT BRAVE (15) Mrs S Smith 5 12 0 WHIGHSON (7) 655- LORD NITROGEN (717) 8 Develop 6 11 13

4.20 HBLB EDENBRIDGE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,200 2m 3f 110yds

#68111 - READY TO DRAW (354) (C) R O'Subsen 7 12 0

12-1 Pennsa Lad. 14-1 others

(CLASS A) (Grade 2) £15,000 2m 110y

Waugh brothers set up by Boon Cricket

Australia 239-5 v Sn Lanka

David Boon played a familiar rescue role in his last appearance for Australia which set up Mark and Steve Whigh for an assault on Sri Lanka in the third and final Test yesterday at the Adelaide Oval. Boon, who will retire from international cricket at the end of

nings with 43 after Australia lost a wicket in the first over. Mark Waugh, who hit 71, and Steve, with an unbeaten 70, lift-ed Australia to 239 for 5 at the

this match, steadied the in-

close on the opening day. Australia, who have a 2-0 lead in the series, took advantage of Sri Lanka dropping three simple catches on a day lacking the intensity of their earlier games. After balltampering and "chucking" controversies for Sri Lanka and heated exchanges between some of their players and a number of Australians in a World Series Cup match, there was a sedate air to proceedings.

Boon, bowing out after a Test career spanning 107 matches and 12 years, has struggled for form this season but appeared more agile and decisive in his footwork before being bowled off an inside edge by Ravindra Pushpakumara.

Chaminda Vaas, who removed Michael Slater with the second ball of the match, also sent back the Australian captain, Mark Taylor, for 21 before returning late in the day to dismiss Ricky Ponting for six.

The Sri Lankan captain, Arjuna Ranatunga, was ruled out after he failed a fitness test on a fractured hand, so Aravinda de Silva took charge.

M E Waugh c Pushpakumara

Extrag (bz 10: 5) 239
Fall: 1-1, 2-36, 3-96, 4-191, 5-196.
To bat: P R Reiffel, S K Warre, C J McDerrott, G D McGrath
Bouting: Vass 26-8-56-3; Pustpakumara
21-4-72-1; Wickremasinghe 23-4-57-1;
Drafmasera 10-1-31-0; Jayasunya 4-1-11-0;
Hathurusinghe 2-0-7-0.

New design pays off for **British** pair

Sporting a radical new design of lightweight mainsail, the British Olympic pair of David Williams and Ian Rhodes kicked off with an encouraging third in the first race of the Tornado catamarans, writes Stuart Alexan-

der from Miami. They did not go to the World Championship in Brisbane this month, preferring to work on a sail which has less battens - five instead of seven - and a lighter weight of sailcloth, and is thus ex-

pected to provide more speed. While the race was won by the man who took the championship in Australia, Austria's Andreas Hagara, Williams and Rhodes could take satisfaction in putting Spain's Fernando Leon, strongly tipped for an Olympic medal later this year, and America's

Randy Smyth behind them. Less happy was Lawrie Smith whose opening assault on the tri-al to find Britain's Star class twoman keelboat representative, was marred by hitting the first weather mark, forcing him to take a 360-degree penalty turn.

TODAY'S **NUMBER**

20m

The amount in dollars (£13.6m) that Prague, the football cham pions of the Czech Republic are in debt. The club's phone lines were cut yesterday when Czech Telecom took action over unpaid bills which stood at £7,000 last October.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Football 7.30 unless stated EMOSLEIGH INSURANCE LEAGUE THIRD DIVISION

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF RELAND Premier Di-vision: Bohemans & Galaby Und :7.45:: Amore Town v UCD 18.01. PRESS AND JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: [14

Rugby League Baskethati

BUDWESER LEAGUE: LEGGE VO. 18 DOZE 50.

Other sports

Considering that he hadn't raced since September, and carring 13th more than his true handicap weight that day, RECORD LOVER ran very well in finishing a close third to Prenier Dance here last Finday when he made most of the running. Those that can be fanced to make a race of it include Mr Mortarty, from a stable going well at present, and Alpine Storms, third to Adaloakdo on her last wist. Mr Monarty ran Modest Hope to 21 over 1m31 here recently and had pievously won a maiden handicap over course and distance by 41 mont Alzoomo. Streakly Hawk represents left and Lydia Pearce, so he can't be rised out, while Posttyngowen hasn't raced for two morths but overcome a similar absence when training up in a race of this sort at Wolverhampson for today's rider, Emily Jones, on his first number season.

*THE INDEPENDENT **Horse Racing**

0839 - 111 171 Commentary

0839 - 111 175

1.40: 1 CARROLLS MARC (J Weaver)

3.40: 1. RAKIS (R Coctrane) 4-6 far; 2. Four Of Spades 12-1; 3. Peritous Plight 4-1 6 ran. 14::, 3-1; fill Britain, Newmarkett, Tokes £1.60; £1.10, £3.30. DF: £8.90. CSF: £9.67. 4.10: 1. REAL MADRID IN Adams) 11-2:

3-1. 7 ram. 6-4 fav Last But Not Least (5th). 125, 124, 10 Noholls, Thresh, Totas £3,40; £2,30, £3,40, DF: £50,80, CSF: £29,78.

___D G#

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RACING RESULTS

9.1. 13 rac. 11.4 kw Total Rech. NK, 316. 46 Entjet, Lewesi, Tota: 56.30; £1.40, £2.40, £1.80. DF: £29.70, CSF: £29.54. Treast: £1.89.42. Trio: £90.00. Quadpot: £83.40. Place or: £267.30. Place 5: £61.04. Place or: £152.28. WINCANTON

1.30: 1. ZINGBRAR (A P McCoy) 5-2 tay; 2. Handson 10-1; 3. Magical Bid 4-1, 21 ran. 6, ns. (f M Bradley, Chepstowl. Yote: 53.10; £1.40, £2.50, £1.70. DF. £20.30. CSF: £26.14. Tho: £13.30.

3.00: 1. SUNLEY BAY (Miss P Curing)
7-2; 2. GNus A Buck 33-1; 2. Rectory Garden 5-1. 13 ran, 3-1 tar Good Insign qualed up). 1¼, 6, (P Nichols, Shepton Mislet). Total L4. 10, £1.30, £5.20, £1.90. DF: £47.30, CSF: £95.08. Tncast: £536.91. Tnc: £103.50.

(P Hobbs, Minchead), Total £4.30; £1.70, £2.50, £7.20, DF: £13.30, CSF: £23.41. Tho: £149.10. 3.30: 1. EASTHORPE U.F. Triey: 6-5 En; 2. Northern Saddler 7-2; 3. Misser Oddy 11-2: 4 ran. 144, 1. (Miss H Knight, Wan-tage). Tota: £2.00. DF: £2.10. CSF: £5.22. 2.30: 1. KEEP ME IN MIND (D Skyrme) 6-1; 2. Amancio 16-1; 3. Morstuck 6-1. 8 ran. 1-2 fav Yeinein (4th). 6, hd. (N R Michell, Pudleurenthide). Yothe £6.90; £1.60, £3.10, £1.10, £7. £48.50. CSF: £79.65. Timest: £549.89. Time: £75.90. NR: Smuggler's Porti.

220-U2 2 AR SHOT (15) (CD) D Kirloson 6 11 10 R Johnson 006000- BRIGADERS SUPPENE (260) P Buder 7 11 4 M A Fitzgazzid 22 5335 NORDANSK (13) M Medgack 7 11 4 B Feeton 333-030 PETE THE PARSON (17) J Dit 7 11 4 D Shorton 04-4FTO RESSHLOCH (8) A Turnel 7 11 4 S McNell P2/554-4 STASE PLAYER (36) Miss C Caroe 10 11 4 D Lashy 067-015 TANGO'S DELIGHT (8) D Barotin 8 11 4 P Holley - 7 declared - 7 declared - P Holley M A Filzge - 7 declared -TTING: 4-5 Air Shot, 11-4 Hordensk, 7-1 Stage Player, 8-1 Peto The seon, 14-1 Tango's Delight, 18-1 Reeshloch, 20-1 Brigadier Supreme 2.45 HOLTYE MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,850 added 2m 110yds

RACELINE FULL RESULTS SERVICE 0891-168-168 **LINGFIELD 102 202 302** SOUTHWELL 103 203 303

7-2; 2. Hill Form Dancer 5-1; 3. Sassiver 12-1; 14 ran. 3-1 for Royal Crops (50), 14, 5. (G. Marroy, Vermarket), Total: £4-60; £1-30; £1-30; £600, DF: £17-50; GSF: £24-54, Tro: £22-50. 2.10: 1. SECOND COLOURS (I Fortune)

5 1: 2 Spencer's Revenge 8-11 fat 3. Mr Nevermond 2-1. 8 ran. No. 10: 0. Mrs. M Rev-etc, Section: Total 54-40: £1.30, £1.00, £1.60, 55: £3.70, CSF: £11.16. 2.40: 1. CHEMCAST -4ex Greates: 7-2;

3.10: 1. DOUBLE-O-SEVEN U Weaver, 4-1: 2. Creeking 11-4; 3. Rewi 4-6 tav. 5 ran. Nr. 2%. M Johnston, Modernem, Tobe: 53-80; 51.20, £1.60. DF: £5.90. CSF: £14.60.

2.00: 1, SAMPLEE (A P McCoyl 5-2: 2. Price's HEE 8-1; 3. God Speed You 50-1. 16 ran. 7-4 fav Lets Rumble (4th). 5, 12.

tage). Totar: £2.00. DF: £2.10. CSF: £5.22. 4.00: 1. LANSDOWNE IM Griffiths: 7-1; 2. Mr Playfull 20-1; 3. Carrig Dancer 11-4 jt fax: 4. Donlir 25-1. 17 ran. 11

Huntingdon abandoned – frost.

FA CUP COUNTDOWN: Coventry defenders have a Georgian on their minds. Guy Hodgson reports

Kinkladze firing City's revival

to believe that Georgi Kinkladze has settled in England, His outstanding form for a start and the eagerness of his club, Manchester City, to extend his contract well into the lext century. Then again things occur to the Georgian that suggest otherwise.

The danger that yellow lines represent, for example. Let loose with a car this week, he parked on the double variety as he accepted an award as Greater Manchester's outstanding sports personality for December. The result was a missed chance to see Simply Red in concert, a towed-away vehicle and a £105 fine.

The following day he was still mystified. "The police stole my car," he kept saying with exas-peration until the club's chairman, Francis Lee, took him to one side for a quiet word. Even then Kinkladze still had a "it wouldn't happen in Tbilisi" expression fixed in place.

Thankfully for English football, Kinkladze is happening over here. Bought for £2m, he is performing wonders in a weak team and is arguably the best purchase from abroad last summer, and that includes David Ginola or Dennis Bergkamp. Certainly City, who meet Coventry in the fourth round of the FA Cup tomorrow. would not swap him for either.

His goal against Leicester City in the third round showed why. Not many players can collect the ball on the half-way line. surge past two markers, bewilder waiting defenders on the edge of the area and score. Then few have his ability.

"I think he's one of the best I've seen in the last 10, 15 years," Lee, not a man to go overboard with praise, said, "If he continues to improve, gets stronger and develops sides of his game, we could just be looking at one of the best we've

ever seen.
"I knew he had an exceptional talent but what he has done has shown an amazing strength of character. He came into a side which didn't win for 11 League games and it didn't affect him. He couldn't speak at the ground he covers. He's

There are many reasons the language. He was on his come to terms with what to do to believe that Georgi own. Everything was stacked when we haven't got the ball and against him. Yet he showed what a wonderful boy he is to come through all this and reach the standard he's at now."

Right on cue, as Kinkladze and Lee were talking, his goal against Leicester appeared on the television above them. The City fans allowed into the training complex to mingle with the players gawped in admiration and burst into spontaneous ap-plause. A small, shy smile broke over the Georgian's face.

"I know I received the ball from Nicky Summerbee," he said, "then nothing. I just ran forward. Instinct took over." Lee interjected: "How does Andre Agassi get a 100mph

'A lot of friends went to the war. A lot of friends died. I wanted to fight too. Everyone in

serve back? Do you think he knows? Georgi won't have a clue how he did it."

Georgia didi

Clueless would be an appo-site description for Kinkladze's introduction to the Premiership. The 22-year-old was shifted around the field as City tried to find a position that would suit him and them, until his manager. Alan Ball, gave him a role he had also handed to another supremely gifted player, Matthew Le Tissier. He has since played like a Saint.

Ball acknowledges that his other midfield players bore the brunt during the settling-in period. "When the kid was bewildered," he said, "and we were getting overrun in midfield, two players were doing the job of three. They did it unselfishly but in their minds I don't think they

were too happy with it.

when we haven't got the ball and he's tackling back. The players admire him because he has worked on his game. The youngsters copy him too. In this country it's monkey see, monkey do and our players could not have better skills to follow."

Kinkladze acknowledges that he struggled at first but his perspective has been anchored by Georgia's war for independence. "A lot of friends went to the war," he said. "A lot of friends died. Any hardships or difficulties I have suffered since are nothing by comparison.
"I wanted to fight, too. Every-

one in Georgia did, women and boys as well, Lots of people went to the war without even knowing how to use a gun." Dy-namo Tbilisi's club president perceived patriotic duty differently, however, and transferred his play::. ; - with rock solid re-turn tickets in the contracts - all over Europe to keep them out of battle. kinkladze spent a year at Saarbrucken, a linguistic bonus now at City where there are three Germans on the staff.

The City players help Kin-kladze off the field, taking him out to his favourite Chinese restaurants, making him feel wanted, and on it a protective shield surrounds the Georgian who is attracting the type of tackles that have forced other imports like Eric Cantona and David Ginola to lose their rag.

He is calmer, less precious, than either Frenchman and appears to have greater mental strength. There have been no perceptible mood swings and bad tackles are met with a look of injured contempt rather than retribution.

When he came back from Anfield on crutches this season the first words his interpreters could prise from him were, "I'm going to play in the next game. I must play." He did as well.
"They kicked me in Georgia

too," he says. "I'm used to it."
The close attention that he will no doubt receive at Coventry does not worry him unduly either. The City players are encouraged to bonnee the ball off Kinkladze even if he is marked tightly. "It is bad for me per-



Georgi Kinkladze, the Georgian international bought by Manchester City for £2m, is arguably the best buy from abroad during the summer

sonally, he said, "but good for the team. If two or three players are concentrating on me there is more space for others. The FA Cup is very exciting for me. My dream is to play at Wembley." He will achieve that dream,

fitness and form permitting, when Georgia play England in the World Cup qualifiers but his preference would be to go with his adopted City first. "The traditions of the two people are very different but they are warm born here.

and kind in Manchester just as they are in Georgia," he said. "I have made many friends here, the chairman, the manager, my home. I feel almost like I was

ond period of extra time.

Bath thus earned a second-

four Conference sides were not

so lucky. Woking's dream of

winning the Trophy for the

third year in a row ended at the

Icis League side Carshalton

Athletic, where the holders

were beaten 3-1 last Saturday.

Wayne Clarke's Telford United

fell by the same scoreline at Bur-

ton Albion, while in the midweek replays Emley overcame Morecambe, also 3-1, and a last-

minute goal was enough for

Gresley Rovers to beat Staly-

On the same afternoon

team-mates. It's my second

Charlton the only man for England job Since Terry Venables announced his intention to resign. A business approach reveals a shortlist of

England's national sport has stopped being football and be-come choosing a coach or man-ager for the England team. Amid the welter of comment and criticism, it is worth asking if there are any principles or guidelines that the FA could follow in selecting a manager. How fair are the accusations that the FA hierarchy are "inept", "incompetent", "a sham-bles" or simply "unfit" to do the job of choosing the next coach

or manager?
The basic principles of selecting a manager of any en-terprise are fairly straightforward. It is important to know, in advance, what the job involves; its objectives, the skills needed, the responsibilities and any other requirements. The FA, so far, have not performed badly against these criteria, despite the confusion created when a key employee an-nounces he is leaving. The FA have already identi-

He will need ex-

managing in the top flight and the England job is 1998 should must be willing to provide some that the FA is a continuity with the Venables disparate group regime. So far. so good, but the of people with FA's real probfying other key

aspects of good selection practice. A successful candidate must be sure that he has the support of the people with whom he must work. The problem with the England job is that the FA is a disparate group of people with different interests, objectives and expectations. For some people the only thing that matters is England's playing success. Others want the England coach to be a media star while some want the coach to represent other aspects of the national game.

It is essential that the FA is clear about both the professional and personal attributes of the coach or manager before making a new appointment. The personal criteria pose special problems. At least three of the last five England managers or coaches were undermined as much by personal as profes-

sional issues. The appointment of Venables seemed to be a victory for those who put coaching and meround home tie against Enfield dia skills as their top priority. or Hayes, who will try for a third His chequered business career time next week to decide their and legal entanglements were first-round encounter, Tuespublic knowledge. Anyone on day's replay ending in a 2-2 the international committee party to his appointment but While Bath survived against getting cold feet ought to have opposition from a lower league,

The timing of highly publicised appointments poses special problems. The first priority is probably to damp down speculation by agreeing a clear timetable for decisions. There is pressure to make a decision before the European Championship finals in the summer. This might provide continuity but an unsuccessful campaign could undermine the new coach

before he gets started.
The FA's task is made even harder by the limited number of English candidates who meet all

just one candidate qualified to replace Terry Venables, says management consultant

izeWE

Tom Cannon

older managers in the top flight have limited international experience. The younger from runners like Keegan. Bryan Robson or Wilkins are just starting on their managerial careers. They are intelligent enough to see that only one England manager - Bobby Robson - has successfully returned to club football and even that was abroad.

The best way to choose the coach will, almost certainly. mean concentrating on the immediate task in hand - prepar-ing England for the 1998 World Cup. Getting the team to the finals is a vital staging post in fied the main professional requirements of the new manager. game from the nadir of the

The effort to playing and The problem with prepare the team for the finals should involve Robson, Kee-Wilkins in supporting and developmental roles, not as lems lie in satis- different interests' ways to make or break their career.

Against this background and using the FA's stated criteria, there are only two real candi-dates - Venables himself and Jack Charlton. It is astonishing that Charlton's name has not come forward. He meets all the professional criteria. He was a key member of the victorious 1966 team (Robson, Keegan and Wilkins have, so far. only known failure in World Cup campaigns.)

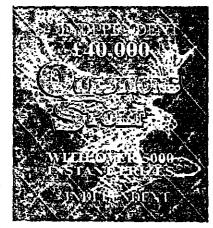
More important is Charl-ton's success with Ireland. In two World Cup campaigns he used the limited resources available to Ireland brilliantly. He should perform even better with the resources available to England. His personand lifestyle are important defences against the pressures of the job. He has immense credibility.

It is much easier to imagine the up and coming generation of managers and coaches working with him than any other serious contender. The only potential serious barriers are his age and his willingness to speak his mind. At 60, his age is hardly a serious impediment. The dignity and assurance he showed over the last few years should reassure even the most timid FA administrator.

In the early stages of the search for a new coach, the FA have not performed badly. But with recruitment and selection the real test is the final choice you make. The best man or woman for the job should be the person best qualified, and competent. The challenge to the FA is to keep this in mind and avoid

Professor Tom Cannon is chief executive of the Management Charter Initiative, a business the professional criteria. The management consultancy.

Questions of Sport



£40,000 to be won

Today we are giving you another sporting chance of an instant win. In last Saturday's paper, there was a Questions Of Sport multi-choice scretch card which, if you answer three sporting questions correctly, gives you the chance of an instant cash prize from £1 to £1,000.

You don't have to be an obsessive fan to play - a good general sporting knowledge should suffice. But remember, you only get one chance to answer each question, so if you are in any doubt, check it out.

In tomorrow's Independent we will give you a new Questions of Sport scratch card. Like your last card, it contains eight games so that you can play daily through to Friday 2 February. As well as the daily instant cash prizes there is a weekly accumulator prize of

HOW TO PLAY

Today we are playing the section of the card dated Friday 26 January. Below are three sporting questions, each with three possible answers coded as A, B and C. Scratch off your answer to Question Twenty-two, either A.B or C in the Q22 column then repeat for Q23 and Q24.

THE QUESTIONS Q22 Who has taken the most wickets in Test cricket? A: Kapil Dev B: Richard Hadlee

Q23 in John McEnroe's final match at Wimbledon he won the men's doubles. Who was his A: Peter Fleming

B: Michael Stich C: Brad Gilbert Q24 in which country will the 1998 football World Cup be

A: France B: Brazil C: Japan

Scratch off ONE letter only for each if you reveal three identical cash

amounts on any one game section on any one day, you win that amount. After you have played the last game on your card, total the cash amounts you have revealed. If your total is £5,000 you win or share the £5,000 accumulator orize. You could also win today's instant prize of £100 by

HOW TO CLAIM

IF you have revealed three identical cash amounts of £5 or under, DO NOT PHONE. Take the claim coupon OR a piece of plain paper with your name and address on it PLUS the relevant section of the card to one of the newsagents listed below. For prizes over £5, phone 01254 683666 (Irish Republic 0044 1254 683666) between 10.30am and 4pm

today. Participating newsagents: WH Smith, John Merzies, Forbuoys, Martins/RS McColl, Dillons, Gibbs, Macs, Supercies, United News Shops, Star News, K Balfour, Eason, GT News, Paperchain - Village Store, Paper

IF you have any difficulty redeeming your card and coupon for a prize send both to: Independent Questions Of Sport claims, PO Box 60, Burnley,

No purchase necessary. Cards are freely available from newsagents or by sending a large see to: Independent Questions of Sport Card Request. PO Box 41, Elactborn X, BB2 6A6. One card per

request.

The prizes for each game will be awarded to the player or players making a successful claim. All claims are subject to scrutny and cards must be intact to be eligible for a prize, Cards with printing

Intact to be eligible for a prize. Uptors when premiums, serrors the word.

Withmers must agree to the publication of their names and photographs in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday.

Should more prizes be cleared than are available in any prize category, for any reason, a simple draw will take place for the prize.

Persons under 16 years old, employees of Newspaper Publishing pic, mirror Group, Europrint Promotions Ltd., Newspaper Publishing pic retail agents, their agents and families are not allowed to play.

The Editors' decisions are final in all matters relating to the games. No correspondence can be emered

QUESTIONS OF SPORT **CLAIM COUPON**

Friday 26 January 1996 To claim prizes up to £5 DO NOT PHONE

Take this coupon to any of the participating Newsagents listed who will give you your prize instantly.

POSTCODE

To the Newsagent: Please check the card is correct and give the reader the value of their prize. Send this coupon or details supplied on plain paper together with the winning card to your head office for full redemption.

Huish fans hushed by Bath's finale Non-League notebook hit back were hindered by a red card for Andy Flory in the sec-

RUPERT METCALF

A cup-tie worthy of a far grander stage than the first round of the FA Umbro Trophy saw Bath City produce a remarkable recovery to defeat their local rivals, Yeovil Town, at a packed Huish Park on

After an hour of the replay Bath were 2-0 down, thanks to two first-half goals from the Yeovil striker, Leroy Whale, and had been reduced to 10 men by the dismissal of defender Chris

Nick Burton pulled one back, though, and the Conference side equalised three minutes from full-time through Rob Seven minutes into extra

time, substitute Deion Vernon put Bath ahead for the first time, while Yeovil's attempts to

New design

pays off for

British pair Sailing

Sporting a radical new design of lightweight mainsail, the British Olympic pair of David Williams and Ian Rhodes kicked off with an encouraging third in the first race of the Tornado catamarans, writes Stuart Alexander from Miami.

The pair took a decision not to go to the World Championship in Brisbane earlier this month, preferring to work on a sail which has less battens - five instead of seven - and a lighter weight of sailcloth, and thus expected to provide greater speed.

While the race was won by the man who took the championship in Australia, Austria's Andreas Hagara, Williams and Rhodes could take satisfaction in putting Spain's Fernando Leon, strongly tipped for an Olympic medal later this year, and America's Randy Smyth behind them.

Less happy was Lawrie Smith whose opening assault on the tri-al to find Britain's Star class twoman keelboat representative. was marred by hitting the first weather mark, forcing him to take a 360-degree penalty turn. him during a recent injury

Ban ends Edwards' cup run . **Rugby League**

DAVE HADFIELD

bridge Celtic 1-0.

Shaun Edwards' proud record of playing in every one of Wigan's Challenge Cup ties during the eight seasons when they have made it their personal property is set to end. The Wigan captain, who has

appeared in 42 consecutive ties throughout the successful campaigns stretching back to 1988, was suspended for one match by the disciplinary committee last night, after being cited by Brad-ford Northern for tackles they said had left their scrum-half, Robbie Paul, with concussion.

Edwards was also fined £150 for what was described as a "reckless high tackle", with an extra £50 fine for another, "careless" high tackle. The incidents, in the match that clinched Wigan's seventh

successive championship 11

days ago, were viewed by the league, who ruled that there was a case to answer. Edwards will now miss the match against Bramley on Sunday, unless an appeal this morning succeeds. If he remains banned, then Jason Robinson,

who has been standing in for

absence, is likely to continue at scrum-half.

Another international halfback, Tony Smith, will miss Castleford's tie against St Helens tomorrow. Smith, who played for England in the Centenary World
Cup, has been suspended for one
match after being found guilty
of throwing a punch at a London Broncos opponent. Smith was not sent off, but was placed on report by the referee, Karl

Kirkoatrick.

Although Smith is also to appeal this morning, Castleford may now be tempted to bring in Frano Botica for his first team debut after he came safely through an Alliance game - his first since breaking his leg in the summer - on Tuesday night.

Chorley, one of three clubs warned this week that they will be expelled from the league if their results do not improve. have vowed to fight for their "We are disappointed that

the league has made this statement, but we will respond positively by showing that we should be there," said the club's solicitor, Simon Robinson,

Chorley were beaten by the amateur side, Thatto Heath, in the fourth round of the Chal-

Barrie-Jon Mather yesterday failed in a High Court bid to gain his release from Wigan so he could join the Australian

club Perth Western Reds. The centre, who was placed on the transfer list in November after a contract dispute. walked out claiming they had failed to adhere to his contract. something Wigan have denied. At a two-hour private hear-

ing. Sir Peter Webster refused to grant Mather a temporary court order requiring Wigan to apply for his release pending a full hearing of the dispute. Mather's lawyers said they were considering an appeal.

TODAY'S NUMBER

20m

The amount in dollars £13.6m) that Prague, the football champions of the Czech Republic, are in debt. The club's phone lines were cut yesterday when Czech Telecom took action over unpaid bills which stood at £7,000 last October.

Stewart the jock of all trades

or someone who began the season as the Pittsburgh Steelers fourth-choice quarterback -- most teams only bother with three - Kordell Stewart can expect to see a lot of the ball come Sunday, Catching it. Throwing it. Running with it. Even punting it. For in a game which specialises in specialists, Stewart is the excep-

tion, the jock of all trades.
But if Stewart's story is one of the brighter strands of a troubled NFL season - his novelty and ebullient personality have made him the most talkedabout rookie since The Fridge weighed in a decade ago - it also highlights a darker side of American football. The plight of the black quarterback. Stewart, a likeable and relaxed

22-year-old, has played the pivotal position all his life, and was an outstanding success at college in Colorado. However, when it came to being drafted into the NFL a familiar pattern emerged. Like many of his colour before him, there was great enthusiasm for his remarkable athletic gifts, but reservations about his ability to lead an offense.

VP3 28 (25)

Would he consider changing to wide receiver or defensive back? "I just don't know why a quarterback has to be 6ft 8in and 230 pounds, with blond hair and blue eyes," he said recently. "A team will invest in someone like that and say that he's going to be its quarterback six years down the road. But why can't a team do that with someone who's 6ft lin and black? People think a black

Matt Tench on Kordell Stewart, the running, catching, passing quarterback

guy isn't going to be a smart quarterback, and that's b.s." Stewart's predicament came a couple of years after Charlie Ward, another outstanding black play-caller, found himself un-drafted, ostensibly because he was also considering a career in professional basketball. Jimmy Johnson, the former head coach of the Dallas Cowboys, and now in charge at Miami, suggested at the time that Ward had been the victim of discrimination. "There's still a stigma that blacks can't figure out sophisticated pro-style offenses. It's a tragedy that Charlie Ward wasn't drafted. And don't give me that bull

about how he was thinking of playing in the NBA," he said.
Stewart insisted he only wanted work as a quarterback, and was taken by the Steelers in the second round, though his place in their depth chart hardly suggested he was being groomed as their play-caller of the near future. As the season began he did not even need to put a uniform on.

Then, as the Steelers made an uncertain start to the season, the head coach, Bill Cowher, approached Stewart to play wide receiver. Recalling the conversation, Stewart said: "When coach Cowher came to me and ask me, I asked him, Will quarterback he my thing in the future?" He said yes." Ron Erhardt, the team's offensive co-ordinator, soon

> As to the future, Stewart said this week that he trusted Cowher to give him the chance to play quarterback. The contract of Neil O'Donnell, the team's starter, is up next month. but it would be a surprise if he is not offered a lucrative new one. Of Stewart, Cowher will say only: "I think he has a future as a quarterback-slash-receiver."

twice, caught a couple of passes

screened coast-to-coast and a

listed as quarterback/receiver.

normally not so much conser-

vative as Gingrichian, relished

the scope for unorthodoxy that

Stewart allowed, and suddenly the Pittsburgh offense, long re-

garded as prehistoric, became

the talk of the league. As the

Steelers rebounded from a poor

start to forge a route to Sunday's

Super Bowl, the rookie be-

came an increasingly vital part

dogs but Stewart presents one of the game's few intangibles. The

Cowboys have the best defense

he will have played against,

lightning quick and unforgiving.

Given the predictable nature of

the Pittsburgh attack without

Stewart though, Erhardt surely

has no option but to try to involve

him as frequently as possible. And it is just possible that Stew-

art's versatility will confuse what

is not the most adaptable unit.

The Steelers are firm under-

of their offense.

Erhardt, whose strategy was

Stewart's best hope may rest with the league's rules makers. The NFL, which has a fascination for petty bureaucracy to make the boys in Brussels look positively laissez-faire, has already expressed its concern that Stewart is wearing No 10, a quarterback's number, but playing mainly as a wide receiver. Siew art says the only thing he will not do for the Steelers is change his number. Which means his team may have to play him more at quarterback, or trade him to someone who will.

Either way, there are many reasons for hoping that Kordell Stewart one day gets his chance to be a starting quarterback. It would be a shame if he were just come the opening race, in Mel-bourne on 10 March, the Photograph: Allsport a Slash in the pan.



Great Britain's John Shaw (left) on the attack in Barcelona vesterday

Britain on brink of qualification

Williams sharpen up for title challenge

Hockey BILL COLWILL reports from Barcelona Great Britain

Netherlands

Great Britain twice came from behind in a classic match to break a run of seven successive defeats by the Dutch and keep alive their Olympic qualifying ambitions here yesterday. They need just a point from their last

two games, against Malaysia

They failed to sign him, now the

Williams team think this season

they have their best chance to

beat Michael Schumacher and

claim the Formula One cham-

Frank Williams pledged yes-

terday a better prepared and im-

proved effort by his team, and

Motor racing

DERICK ALLSOP

and Belgium, to be sure of joining Spain and India (and almost certainly the Netherlands) who qualified earlier in the day.

Yesterday's game started at a cracking pace with Britain forcing a couple of early penalty corners without reaping any reward. It was against the run of play that the Dutch went ahead in the 23rd minute, Taco van den Honert taking advantage of confusion in the British defence.

The half ended in high drama. With Britain awarded a penalty corner in the final

Williams-Renault chief said his

engineers and mechanics should

have sharpened their act and Hill

should be similarly primed, physically and psychologically to

make a better fist of their cham-

pionship challenge than they

did last season, when they were

The team are anxious to make

up time at pit stops and Williams

be more positive in this area.

and Benetton-Renault.

minute, the Spanish umpire, Santiago Deo, temporarily suspended two Dutch players for consistently breaking the line before the corner was taken.

Britain exploited their advantage at the beginning of the second half and were on terms within a minute. Chris Mayer, who throughout this tournament has caused problems with his speed, this time got on the scoresheet himself.

Restored to full strength, the rampant Dutch attack stormed forward with van den Honert

Schumacher is now with Fer-

rari after Williams, as their en-

gineering director Patrick Head

confirmed, had made inquiries

last year about Schumacher's

availability, but were priced

Williams said Hill, second in

out of contention.

claiming his second goal 11 minutes into the half from their first penalty corner. With just two minutes remaining, Calum Giles calmly walked on to strike home Britain's seventh corner for a well deserved equaliser. IOT A WO'H GESCIVED EQUALISET.
GREAT BRITAIN: D Luckus (East Grinstead); J
Wyatt (Reading), Sowns Shigh (Southgete), G
Fortham (Houristow), Kalbir Takher (Carnock), S Hastil (Houristow), C Mayer (Carnock), J Shaw (Southgate), R Thompson (Okurslow),
J Laskett (Reading), Capt), N Thompson (Oku Lougitorium), Substitutes used: C Glies (Havard), H Hoskin (Reading),
NETHERLANDS: R Jensen; E Jussel, J Delmee,
M Crucis, W van der Wal, J Brivensin, M Delssen (Capt), W van Pets, S Veen, T van den Hon-er, R van Wijk, Substitutes used: C de Hoosjer,
S van Heeswijk, R Westbrook.

Hill. conscious of Schu-

macher's phenomenal fitness,

Austrian physiotherapist/coach to upgrade his physical condi-

tion. "He is taking his prepa-

rations very seriously indeed,"

ton's Frenchman Jean Alesi.

Banned Dourthe accuses **England**

Rugby Union

Richard Dourthe, the French centre suspended for a month for stamping on the head of Ben Clarke, yesterday accused English players of worse acts of Dourthe said he thought the

media fuss over the incident during France's 15-12 win over England in Paris last Saturday had been out of proportion and that he had seen many acts of violence by English players in the past which had gone unpunished. "But I don't think we should do things the way they do," he said. "That's the English mentality and perhaps we are more

intelligent."

Dourthe, who has been replaced by Alain Penaud for the match against Scotland, said he had learned his lesson. "The punishment is fair and it's a good esson for me. It punishes my act and one month is fine. It proves

the injury was not serious."

Mike Hall, the Cardiff centre. is understood to have accepted £1,000 from Llanelli as compensation for suffering a broken law from a punch thrown by Scarlets' lock Tony Copsey when the sides met in a Heineken

League match on 30 September. The injury forced Hall to miss four League matches and Cardiff's game against the tour-ing Fijians. It is believed the sum was arrived at by taking into account appearance money and bonus opportunities denied him, plus the cost of treatment.

Rob Andrew finally makes his competitive debut for Newcastle when he faces Harlequins in the Pilkington Cup fifth round at Kingston Park tomorrow. The ex-England outside-half has been restricted to a handful of friendly and second team games since his departure from Wasps to become the Newcastle supremo.

Andrew, whose last competitive game was for Wasps in mid-October, said: "On a personal level I am very much looking forward to the game. It is a big challenge for me as I have not played serious rugby for a few months.

There is a lot of expectation. has taken on the services of an but how my form is I will have to find out. But I have been living with the pressure for 10 years now and I am used to it."
SCOTLAND A (v France A at Myreside, 2
February): S Lang (Herior's FP): C Glasgow
(Heno's PP), G Shield Heriose), R Erissson
(London Scotlar), D Stark (Bergugurnur; S Weish (Hawick), D Patterson (W Harrispool):
M Browne (Meirose), G Ellis (Currel, B Stew-art (Edinburgh Academicals), D Burns (Bor-oughmuri, D Cronin (Bourges), P Weiton (Newcastlet, B Remarket (Hawick), N Broughton (Meirose). Replacements: S Nichol (Scierit), S Laing (Instansars), G Burns Sciewarts Mekhite Phy, M Norwal String Cou-ty). S Paul (Heriot's FP), M Scott (Ornell). years, "has a very good chance Canadian Jacques Villeneuve of the championship this time. and expect him to win races, but But he needs to sort out his over- feel Hill is a better championship bet. The threat to him.

Mr Versatile: Stewart does it all

RUGSY LEAGUE: Sik Cut Challenge Cup fourth round: West Leeds v York (7.30) (at The Soule-vard, Hull).

vard. Hulli.
BOXING: Under-19 Amateur International: England v Germany (Blackpool). This the first time England have met the combined Germany, who are ranked among the world's leading nations. England won the last international against West Germany in 1968 7-3 but lost to East Germany 7-1 the previous year. The charmy evening in aid of the Lancasture Association of Boys Clubs has a few bables left for the dimner event fiel: 01524 65106, Spectators can also be accommodated in the balcotty of the Winter Germes at £5 and the bout of the evening will be the welterweight contest between Richard Heitzin, the promising burer from Manchester, and Jurgen Brahmer, the

pool. (fel: 01253 27786).

HOCKEY: Women's Indoor European Nations Cup (Gasgow). Scotland, in Group A. open their campaign against France et 1pm. Engand 's opening in Group B is against Austria et noon. Admission: daily: £5 adults, £2 under-18s; season ticker (today to Sunday): £12. If, Play stars at 10am today and tomorrow, with the first semi-final at 9.30am on Sunday and the final at 3.45pm. Kelwin Hall International Sports Arena is west of Glasgow City Centre. on Argive Street. (fel: 0141 357 2525).

TOMORROW FOOTBALL: FA Cup fourth round, Endsleigh League Second and Third Divisions, Tennent's Scottish Cup third round and Bell's Scottish League Second and Third Divisions. RUGBY LEAGUE: Sin Cut Challenge Quo Yourth round: Castleford v St Helens (3.05). RUGBY UNION: Tour Match: Pontyordd v New South Wales (2.30). Ols Insurance County

pionship Negonal League.
RACHIG (National Hunt unless stated):
INGRED (AM Risk): All enticoures 59, (1.40).
Apr. Cub (16: Grandstand 28 (OAPs hat proc).
1.0). Chethembaum: (10: 416 (Uniton), 16-24 years. £8): Tattersals. £12; Foster's Enclosure.
£8; Family Enclosure £3 (under 16s free all enclosures). (1.0).
ATMLETIES Committee.

ATHLETICS: Great Britain v Russia (Birr ATMLENES: Great Britain V rollsast commer-ham). The field includes a mixture of experi-enced hands and up-and-commer attributes. The opening estemony is at noon. Admission: £10. 18 adists, £5, £4 enddren:OAPs. National In-door Arena, National Indoor Arena, king Ed-wards Road. Birmingham, Junction 6 of M6 and the Arena is septiosted from the A38(M). 180x Office 0121, 200, 22221.

ISOs Office (121 200 22/21).

CYCLINES: Jock Fletcher Memorial League (Manchester). Manchester. London. Edinburgh, caruff and Birmingham compete, starting at 7pm. Admission: E4 adults, 12 childrevizon-cessoris, £10 farmly ticket. National Cycling Centre, Manchester Velocitorine, Stuari Street, is located off Ashton Did Royal, between Manchester and Ashton-under-Lyne, near Droylession and reached torm A662 via Corbett Street.

VIUS-RINE: Omega Bresh Husly Racing Chambonship (Aberloyle). Some 80 fearns and 400 has compete in the fifth round of the chambonships. Classes for two, four and sa-dog sams of Siberian Huslies and Aberloin Malanures take part in reads stating at 8.30am omorow and Sunday. This is the best time or spectrang as the heats for the larger, faster earns are run first. From Glasgow, take the ISI to Abertoyle, burning left at west end of Aan Street. Entry to that will be through Baleich, bearing left to enter larest.

SNOOKER: Regal Welsh Open (Newport). Play in to and including Monday will consist of a oil oryroli off format, starting at 10am each Save Davis, the Champion, is looking for is third Regal Welsh title and opera his de-noe formation at 7pm against Domline Dale. Jechon Hendry, the world champion, opera-gentst Mike Hellett on Sunday at 7pm. Ad-

PICK OF THE DAY

THIS WEEKEND / Fencing Corble Cup / Epée championships Guildford and RAF Cosford

This weekend is one of the busiest in the domestic fencing calendar, with the Corble Cup sabre international at Guildford and the British épée champi-onships at RAF Cosford, near Wolverhampton, It is 50 years since Archie Corble presented the attractive Cup for what is Britain's leading sabre event and domeswhose training with the French

POOTEALL: FA Cup fourth round: Sheffeld Unt-ed v Aston Villa (3.0). Tennent's Scottish Cup thad round: Whitenal Welfare v Celta: (3.0) (at Easter Road. Edinburgh). RUGBY LEAGUE: Silk Cut Challenge Cup

CYCLO-CROSS: National Trophy final round (Northallerton). This sesson, points from all four rounds will count towards miles melong this final round crucial, though in the sentor men's Trophy Barne Clarke, of Team Reliegh, hea a 20-point cashon over the national champion Nick Craig, of Deamond Back, Craig, in turn, hea a 20-point lead over the third-blood Steve Knight, of Halesowen C and AC and only a disaster will disologib the broit two. Knight, however, will have to work for third, with five points separating from Gary Foort, of Scott international, and Suart Burst, the Ace RT rider. The senior men's race also has the status of a second category international, with ranking points for the first 1.0 finishers and prize-money. The select overseas contingent will have an effect on the race's development, though not on the outcome of the National CYCLO-CROSS: National Trophy final round war rever an street, on the race's development, though not on the outcome of the National Trophy, Programme: Under-12s 10am, uverless 11am, unos noon, veterars 12.01pm, worner 12.02pm, senior men 2pm. Stone Cross Paying Field, Hambleton Leisure Centre, Northalletton, North Yorkstvis. From A1, at A168/A19 turn-off, signposted Teesside, take A158 to Northalletton.

Next week
FOOTBALL (7.30 miless stated): Monday:
FA Cup fourth round: Queen's Park Ranges
v Chelsee (8.0). Endelleigh Insurance
Lengue Taird Division: Donesster v Lincoln.
Representative Match: UniBond Ledgue v
English Universities 31 off Lanaster City FO:
Tuesday: Anglo-Italian Cop semi-final:
Bimingiam v West Bormanch (7.45). Endsleigh Instrusione League First Division: Sunderland v Tranmer. Second Division: Brentford v Wycombe (7.45); Burnley v Ovtord Util. Taird Division: Barnet v Torquey
(7.45): Darlington v Preston: Exercive v Hartepool (7.45); Fulliam v Sourthorpe (7.45); Rother (7.45); Talliam v Sourthorpe (7.45); Gillingtam v Mansileid (7.45); Northampton
v Plymouth (7.45): Wiggar v Colchesser (7.45). Asso Windscretens Shield Northam section
semi-finals first leg; Carlisle v Chesserfield;
Rotherham v Tork, Southern section semifinal first leg; Peterborogh v Bristal Rovers
(7.45). Tennent's Seotifish Cap third round:
Monenvell v Aberdeen (7.45). Sootifish
Lengue First Division: Clydebank v Duribarton, Second Division: Ayr v Chef; Bernich,
v Forfar, Wednesday: FA Carling Premiership: Asson Villa v Liverpool (7.45); Notingham Forest Villa v Liverpool (7.45); Notingham forest V Leeds (7.45); Sorthampton v
Manchester Coy, West Ham v Coverny
(7.45). Busheigh Isourance League First
Division: Lincon v Sheffled Util (7.45); Second
Ulvision: Lincon v Sheffled Southern section
semi-final first leg; Stressbury v Hereford,
eventhel Lanasue Farst Division: Artife v
Accortical Lan

JUST THE TICKET: What's on where for the sporting spectator

squad has proved rewarding on. the international circuit. In the men's event at the British épée championships at Cosford. Quentin Bernman, Britain's most talented epécist of his generation, is the favourite. Penny Tomlinson,

placed to add to her tally of medals in the women's contest.

How to get there: Corble Cup, Guidford Spectrum, Parkery, Guidford, Surrey, is close to A3 and clearly signposted. (1et. 01.483 443333). Fencing starts at 9em tomorrow includucies, gets final 6cm) and Sunday (trans). Admission: £3.50 adults. children free. British épéc champlonstraps, RAF Costord, nr Albrighand, Wickerhampson, West Midlands. 9.30em on both days. Spectating is free but omore ment of referritive, seneded.

a former national champion, is

RUGBY LEAGUE: Treaday: Internation Matrix Great Britain Academy v France (7. (at Salford).

Match: Great Britain Academy v France (7.30) (at Salvord).

RUGBY UNION: Treesday: Club. Metobles: Bath v Cardif (7.15): Duncart v Swansea (7.0); Massieg v Perarth (7.0); Tondu v Treordy (7.0); Wassis v Loughborough Students (7.30). WRU Matweek Competition Pool C: Coerpitily v Larharan (7.0). Hart Gitmore Pour Counties Championship: Shopshie v Derbydne (7.30); (at Streesbury). Wednesday: Tour Metoble: England A v New South Wales (7.15) (at Liesster). Representative Match: Covi Servec v Royal Navy (2.15) (at Chiswicid, Friday: A Intersystional: Scotlard v France (1.0) (at Myreside). Representative South Wales (7.15) (at Liesster). Representative South Wales (7.15); Crusting v Stara (7.0); Searce (7.15); Crusting v Blama (7.0); Searce (8.0); Serv Hill V Strout (7.0); Bacthord v Sanacens (8.0); Serv Hill V Strout (7.0); Bacthord v Sanacens (8.0); Serv Hill V Strout (7.0); Bacthord v Sanacens (8.0); Serv Hill V Strout (7.0); Bacthord v Sanacens (8.0); Serv Hill V Strout (7.0); Bacthord v Sanacens (8.0); Serv Hill V Strout (7.0); Bacthord v Sanacens (8.0); Serv Hill V Strout (7.0); Bacthord v Sanacens (8.0); Serv Hill V Strout (7.0); Bacthord v Sanacens (8.0); Serv Hill V Strout (7.0); Bacthord v Sanacens (8.0); Serv Hill V Strout (7.0); Bacthord v Sanacens (8.0); Serv Hill V Strout (7.0); Bacthord v Sanacens (8.0); Serv Hill V Strout (7.0); Bacthord v Sanacens (8.0); Serv Hill V Strout (7.0); Bacthord v Sanacens (8.0); Serv Hill V Strout (7.0); Bacthord v Sanacens (8.0); Service (8.0); Service

Gruny V. Decement II 7.10; wassal v wordshar (7.15): Wassa v Bindgend (7.30).

RACING: Monday: SOUTHWELL (All Weather Field: Cab £12; Tomesals £6 (DAP members of course's Demond Club £4, accompanied under-15s free). (2.0). Plamptone Members £12; Estensals £6; Course £4. (1.50). Ayr: Cab £12; Grandstand £7 (DAPs half-proce). (1.40). Toesday: LingField (AW Rati); All enclosures £9, (1.40). Measselburgh: Cab £11; Tathersals £6; Salver Ring £3). (1.20). NottingBarner Cab £12 (humon, 16-21 years, £8; Tottersals £6; Salver Ring £4, (1.30). Wednesday: WOLVERHAMPTON (AW Fiat): Enrance £6; additional £10; for errance to Viewing Restaurant; additional £15; 50 for meal. (2.10). Lakestere £3, £12; Tathersals £7; Salver Ring £4, (1.30). Therefore Each £7; Salver Ring £4, (1.30). Therefore £7; Cab £7; NEXT WEEKEND

POOTBALL: Saturdage FA Caring Promessing, Ensising League and Bell's Scottash League. Sandari FA Caring Persensing Chesia Video destinating (4.0). Endiseign League First Devision: Charton v. Crysta. Palace C. 551; Namech v. Briming and 3.0:: Forti Vale v. Stoke (12.0) (a) belief Reading v. Portsmouth (2.55). RUGBY UNION: Separately: Five Mations' Championship: Engard v Wates (3.0) for Mar-Twellerinsm': Septend v Pizace (3.0) for Mar-

RACING: Seturday: UNGFIELD (AW Flat): as Tuesday. (1.45). Chepstow: Club £14: Tatterasis £10 (0.47s £5). (1.0). Sandows: Club £15, Jurior Club £15, Jurior Club £15, Jurior Club £15, Sandows: Liu Grandstand and Paddock £12; Siwer Ring £5. (1.20). Wetherby: Club £12 (accompanied under-16s free): Tatienagis £7; Course £2 (cars, including up to 4 actuits £6). (1.10).

Plan ahead The international cycling road season

in Europe starts on 6 February and the spring classics offer the spectator the chance to follow teams and riders as they perform in the one-day World Cun races and begin tuning up for the Tour de France in July. The Het Volk, on 2 March, is Bel-

glum's opening spring classic and is an indicator to the form of riders for the forthcoming World Cup races. Starting and finishing in Ghent, the 208km race includes five tough climbs on cobbled surfaces. The Paris-Nice or the Race to the Sun from 10 to 17 March is the first classic stage race of the season. The first six World Cup races follow, concluding the spring classics. The Milan-San Remo opens the sequence on 23 March and the Grand Prot of Frankfurt concludes this series on 1 May.

The four World Cup races in between, all held at the weekends in April, are within easy reach for spectating. The Tour of Flanders on 7 April is a gruelling 260km ride partly over the Andennes and includes infamous cobbled climbs like the Murr de Grammont, 20km from the first. The Darie Dur white the Millouiser.

like the Murr de Grammont, 20km from the finish. The Paris-Roubeix the following Sunday lives up to its alternative title of the "Hell of the North", a hellish mix of cobbles, crashes and punctures. Chris Boardman has pendited in the Liège-Bastogne-Liège, the fourth World Cup race on 21 April. The oldest classic is a race of repeated short climbs in the Ardennes though on tarmac. The hill of La Redouts, 48km from the finish, is a eood variate point. The Amish, is a eood variate point. ish, is a good vantage point. The Amstel Gold ends the series on 27 April. The Netherlands' only classic is raced over the south-east corner, 245km from Heerlen to Meastricht.

Sporting Tours, of Otley, specialises Sporting Tours, of Ottey, specialises in cycling trps and provides excursions to these four World Cup races, though the Amstel Gold is now booked. Prices for the Tour of Flanders are a day trip at £65, two nights in Ghent at £139 or if you wish to bring your bike for three nights, £179. The Pars-Roubaix costs £65 for the day trip, 125 for one night in Pars and three nights with bike start. in Pars and three nights with bike start-ing at £125. The Liège-Bastogne-Liège race starts at £109 for two nights in the town. Sporting Tours elso has a video brochure, narrated by Phil Liggett,

Het Volk (start and finish in Ghent) 2 March; Paris-Nice 10-17 March; Milan-San Remo Warld Cupi 23 March; Tour of Handers (World Cupi 7 April; Paris-Roubeb (World Cupi 14 April; Liège-Bassagne-Liège (World Cupi 21 April; Amstal Gold Roce (World Cupi 27 April; Grand Prix of Frankfurt (World Cupi 1 May. Sporting Tours, 21 Menor Garders, Pool-in-Wharfedale, Odey, West Yorkshire LS21 1/NB (Tel: 0113 284 3617; fac 0113 284 3617).

Details of forthcoming events with information on tickets and venues should be sent to: The Sports Desk, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. Fax: 0171 293 2894.

Compiled by Paul Maker

Badminton

Basketbali

MBA: LA Lakers 124 Boston 107; Charlotte 127 Meetington 113; New York 89 Marmi 79; Hous-ton-18 New Jessey 88; Cleveland 91; Phaleschila 88; Phoent 101 Minnesons 91; Cheago 104 Ven-cuuer 84; Indiana 97 Minnesukee 88; Derrott 85 San Amtono 84; Seattle 86 Derver 79; Urah 100 Golden State 89.

CIS WELSH MASTERS (Linnell) Quarter-finals: J Price (Wal) bt J Dawes (Wal) 7-1 7-0; A Thom-son (Eng) bt C Lewis (Wal) 4-7 7-0 7-0.

County champions, Warwickshire, have reappointed Dermot Reeve as captain for the 1996 season. Reeve has so far led Warwickshire to six trophies in three years. SECOND UNDER-19 TEST (Harrar) Their ally of four: Zimbabee 47 (P Hutchson 5-11) and 155 (Hutchson 3-32, C Darubell 3-25); England 344 for 7 der (D Nash 55n.) D Sales 50. England won by an holings and 132 ress.

Football AFRICAN NATIONS CUP Group C (Johannes-burg): Zaire 2 (Lukaku pen 5, Essando 72) Liberto O. (Zaire and Gabon quality for quarter-finals on

O. Cafe and Galon quality for quarter-finels on goal difference).

HISH LEAGUE COCA-COLA FLOODLIT CUP Questra-finels draws: Glenourn v Arist for be played Tues of February, 7-301; Cattornalie v Colesane (Inst. 6 Febr. 7-301; Glenomer v Linfeld (Tues 6 Febr. 7-301; Glenomer v Linfeld (Tues 6 Febr. 7-301; Glenomer little v Portadoen that. Frant crossed, second legic Crusadene v Ballymens Utd (6 February, 7-301.

EUROPEAN UNDERN-21. OLYMPIC QUALLETING CHAMPIPOLISHEP Quarter-finels draws: Hungary v Scotlard (12 Marchi; Portagal vi Italy (13 Marchi; Spon v Cach Republic (13 Marchi; Germany v Fintne 113 Marchi; France v Bermany Cé Marchi; Cosch Republic v Spein (27 March); Cosch Republic v Spein (27 March);

Finnce 1/3 Meanth; France v Sermeny (26 Meach);
Scotland v Hungery (26 Meach); Italy v Pottugel (27
Merch); Cooch Republic v Spein (27 Merch),
WEDNESDAYS LATE RESULTS: International Infementies France 3 Portugel 2 Creece 2 Israel 1: Italy 3 Wales 0. Cooch-Cole Cop quanter-final replace Erranger 2 Pottugel 2 Creece 2 Israel 1: Italy 3 Wales 0. Cooch-Cole Cop quanter-final replace Erranger 2 Notwork 1 (Birming-harm play Leads in semi-firm). Endeteigh League Plast Division: Herniton 3 St Muren 0, Second Division: Herniton 3 St Muren 0, Second Division: Herniton 3 St Muren 0, Second Plaston: Studies 3 Cycle 0. FA Unitors Trophy first-round replay: Gateshead 2 (Pobson 15, Camman 76) Kideformunster Horriers 0 (Gateshead away to Emiley). FA Carloberg Vase tourth round, second replay: Solly 0 Trai-tout 3 (S7Stes 21, 47, Vaugen 23) (Sraftort seasy to Brigg Formy). Beasen Hones League Socotion toury to Brigg Formy). Beasen Hones League Socotion on Uniform Division: Harent 0 Ceveston 0. Unifound League Pines Division: Brigging Formy. Beasen League Socotion 1 Northwood 1. Jeveston Eastern League President Wittern O Meagher 1. Thate Division: Haron 1 Northwood 1. Jeveston Eastern League President Polysials: Socomment 5 Websoch 3, Renth West Counties League First Division: President Aberyanych 1 Ebber Valle 1: Comey Perdymadog 0, Bond Gale League of Indian of Websoch Shorth Counties Charles 1 Comment O State Charles 1 Counties C

also believes time has been lost taking. He has to give no quarovertaking. He is urging Hill to ter and pass in a way that says, they think, may come from Benet-'don't mess with me."

GORF
JOHNNE WALKER CLASSIC (Tanab Morah,
Stagapure) Leading first-round access (GB or
Id unions school; 86 B Hughes (Aux); D Kordson (Swel, 67 E Bic (Sk.), 10 John (Js.) 86 B McKente (Aux); B Rusright (Thel); F Couries (LS; B Langer
(Gar), Townsen (US); Z More (Jume), 68 P Moss
(US); W Ernsth (Aux); F Tamast (Fr); 1 Wocksen; R Refferty, J M Singi (Ind); Heigh Chrin-sherty (Ba);
R Refferty, J M Singi (Ind); Heigh Chrin-sherty (Ba);
R Tomon (Jaspen); S Gam (Js.); T L Weste (Fr); D
Cole (Aux); P Affectic J Van de Vette (Fr); D
Cole (Aux); C D Coles (US); D Branscon (Aux);
P Fowler (Aux); G Nicklaus (US); P Garussegisten
Meigh; D Robertson; A Bonhomme (Aux); M Jonzon (Sael; G Ort, S Staves (Ser); M Harvetod (Aux);
D Coner; J Robertson; A Bonhomme (Ms); M Morzon (Sael; G Ort, S Staves (Ser); M Harvetod (Aux);
D Coner; J Robertson; C Prop.
(Ms); S Scahll (M2); F Lettigren (Swe); P McGin(My, 72 S Coffers (Aux); C Chemer (Fr); N Negge; P
HotMiramy (Aux); S Richerdson; C Prin (Piggs; P
HotMiramy (Aux); S Richerdson; C Prin (Piggs; P
HotMiramy (Aux); C Richerdson; C Prin (Piggs; P
HotMiramy (Aux); C Richerdson; C Sael, (S Kor);
Path Nam-sin (S Kor); M McLears, S Lagook; (Aux);
C Paghol (Ina); G Dook (Aux); S Lesney
MERDENAN (GBO) (Aux); Auxilian)

**C Plaghol (That): G Dodd (Aust); S Issoney (Aust).
***C Plaghol (That): G Dodd (Aust); S Issoney (Aust).
***C Plaghol (That): G Dodd (Aust); S Issoney (Aust).
***PROCHAS OPTEN (S Cottschale, Artsona) Lending first-rosend soorse (US unders stated): 64 F. Langten. 65 G Sauser; W Austin. 66 D Poh; H Tedty, B Tissy, 67 S Jones: B Andrade; J Issonard; J Parmerk, Swel; J Aconsta; J Don Saler; J WH-Son. 68 D Duxa; M Bristy; C Stadler; T Watson; F Flunic V Singh; (Fig); D Martin; D Pooley; B Lane (GB); M Brooks.
**SOUTH AFRICAM MASTESS Poot Edward Lending first-round soorse (SA unless stated): 87 M Crestie (US); J McHenny (Erbe) H), 68 M McNary (Zin); D Higgins (Fig) ht); R Safor Dun.
**SOUTH AFRICAM MASTESS Poot Edward: D Technache; M Muries; V Ocasteo; S Ford (US); W Westner; J Cole (Swr), 70 K Stone; I Hatching; W Schutz; J Hess (US); I Palmar; C Davison (GB); N van Renchurg.

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT (Bercelone) Shift Day: Canada 1 Inde 2: 5 3 2 0 11 3 8 5 3 2 0 11 5 8

SPORTING DIGEST ice hockey

Williams said.

Patrick Bernardini's faultless drive through the final night of the Monte Carlo Rally allowed him to secure his first win in the event yesterday. The Corscan, making only his second appearance in the winter classic, won with a comfortable margin of three minutes 44 seconds over France's Francois Delectors second in a Perisent 306. The new cour, second in a Peugeot 306. The pre-race favourite, Armin Schwarz of Germany, came third.

Rugby Union The Courage Clubs Second Division game between Moseley and Northampton tomorrow has been postponed be-

Skating Successing Stations CHAMPIONSHIPS (Sofia) Leading positions in los dames, effect original dames: 1.0 Gattschuk and E Pintor Plas) 1.0ps; 2 A Krytova and 0 Overamileov (Rus) 2.0; 31 Romanose and 1 yearshenion (Ling) 34; 4 M Anssana and G Pelanet Fri 3.4; 5 I Lobarchew and I Averbuich (Rus) 5.0. Selectad: 1.1 M Humphreys and P Ashew (68) 11.0.

Skiing

Heavy snow has forced the postpone-ment of today's first men's World Cup downhill to be staged in Sestriere for over 25 years. Race orgnisers say they hope to switch the race to Garmisch,

Snoeker Alex Higgins yesterday made an attempt to evert or minimise disciplinary action against him by snooker's governing body by "unequivocally" apologising to two ref-erees he has verbally abused. The for-

Snow reports (Upper) AUSTRIÁ FRANCE 24.1 25 23.1 100% Montganèvre isola 2000 ... ITALY 24.1 25.1 24.1 Courmayourpowdery Sestrierepowdery 90% 95% SWITZERLAND NORTH AMERICA ANDORRA Soldenfresh 25.1 NORWAY 50% 24.1 cloudy Information supplied by Ski Hotline

mer world champton, currently serving a suspended one-year ban pending his tu-ture conduct, faces possible further action by the World Professional Billiands and Snooker Association for remarks made to Alan Chamberlain and Laurie Annandate during the recent World Championship

Table tennis

Lisa Lomes and Matthew Sved, Britain's leading hopes for the Atlanta Olympics, have moved up the world rankings. Lomas has moved up from 57 to 52 in the women's and Syed, the England No 1, has moved from 45 to 42 in the men's.

Britain's Martin Lee and James Trotman advanced to the last four of the boys' doubles at the Australian Open in Mel-bourne yesterday with a quarter-final vic-tory over Andrea Capodimonte and Dano

boy over Andrea Capodimonte and Danio Sciortina, of Italy, 6-1, 6-1.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN (Melbourne) Men's doubles, semi-finale: 5 Lanks. (Cant and A O'Enen (US) to G FORGE (Pr) and I HASEN (Swe) 6-35-7-3-6-2-8-4: 5 Edberg (Swet and P Korta (Cz Rept br P GABERNIN (US) and A OULHOVSKY PRUS 6-2-7-6-5-3. Women's singles, semi-finale: M SELES (US) bt C RUSIN (US) 6-7-6-1. 7-5: A HUBER (US) 6-7-6-1. Semi-finale: L DAVENPORT and M J FERNANDEZ (US) to M MCGRATH (US) and 1. NELAND (Lat 6-2-6-2) C RUSIN (US) and A SANCHEZ VICARIO (Spi tt G FERNANDEZ (US) and N ZVEREVA (Rela) 6-1-6-7-6-1. Sended players in capitals.

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A C. C. C. Copper M. Copper Co

Asprilla makes his way to Newcastle Another Parma player, the Portuguese defender Fernando Couto, has emerged as a possi and vice-users to take a wage cut of £3,000 a from Guinea who is in dispute week but still could not agree who is in dispute to take a wage cut of £3,000 a from Guinea who is in dispute.

Couto, has emerged as a possi-

ble target for Manchester Unit-

ed. On the recommendation of

the former England manager

Bobby Robson, under whom

Couto played at Porto, Alex Fer-

guson and his chief scout, Les

Kershaw, watched the 26-year-

er-exchange system aimed at cir-

cumventing the Bosman ruling.

Under the proposed agreement, Milan would have first op-

Couto at £5m.



prilla, by signing him for a club-record fee of £7m today.

PHIL SHAW

Newcastle United are set to conclude their pursuit of Parma's controversial Colombian international striker, Faustino As-

Asprilla, 26, reportedly flew to London from Milan last night, en route to Tyneside, having agreed a four-year contract with the Premiership leaders worth £15,500 a week. The deal would take Kevin Keegan's outlay in the transfer market beyond the £40m mark in four ears as Newcastle manager. Talking on Italian television

prior to his departure, Asprilla said: "I'm sad to leaving because I've had some good years in this city with this team. It would be a challenge playing in England. The prospect of taking part in the European Cup next season is an exciting one." He admitted his relationship with Parma's coach, Nevio Scala, had been "tense", adding:

old centre-back play for Portugal in Wednesday's 3-2 defeat by France in Paris. Parma value "Perhaps it's time to go."
Described by Colombia's former national coach, Francisco United yesterday confirmed that they have held talks with Milan about establishing a play-Maturana, as "always partying and hard to control", Asprilia is on probation in his home country following a firearms offence.
If he joins Newcastle, he would have to report to the Colombian Embassy once a month.

Paul Gascoigne has been ordered to stand trial in Italy next October on charges of injuring photographer in Rome 18 months ago. The Rangers and England midfielder, who was then with Lazio, is alleged to have injured the photographer when trying to remove a roll of film from his camera. Gascoigne's legal adviser, Mel Stein, said: "If we have to make a plea it will be not guilty."

Birmingham's hopes of signing Vinny Samways from Everton and Vinnie Jones from Wimbledon were dashed yesterday. Samways was prepared

rejected. Wimbledon offered their captain when Barry Fry, the Birmingham manager, asked inquired about Andy Clarke. "Sam Hammam said someone like Vinnie would do us the world of good," Fry said. "Not that he can play, but he's a good leader."

Leeds United have signed Uli

Borowka, the 33-year-old German international utility defender, on loan from Werder Bremen until the end of the season. Bolton Wanderers are seeking clearance for Mohammed Ben Sylla, a striker

morrow's FA Cup match against Wolves after returning from the England "get-together" with a stomach complaint. Stuart Pearce may miss Nottingham Forest's tie with Oxford after sustaining a calf injury with England. Gerry Francis is looking for justice from Uefa when they

consider Tottenham's appeal against a European suspension in Geneva today. The Spurs manager believes they have an "outstanding" case in their attempt to overturn the one-year ban, imposed by the governing body of European

football for the club's lukewarm approach to the Interioto Cup last summer. "If there is any justice and commonsense it will all come out right," he said. "If the ban stands it would destroy everything we have allworked so hard to achieve."

Italy's clubs were left confused after a meeting with Uefa in Rome vesterday to discuss the Bosman ruling. The Ucfa president Lennart Johansson, from whom many Italian clubs had expected guidance, told them that the path to follow was an agreement among themselves. Asked what Uefa would do if clubs ig-

nored the rules. Johansson said:

cial sanctions, only moral ones,"

We won't be able to issue judi-

Comeback of career from Seles

Monica Seles produced one of the comebacks of her career to win a place in her fourth Australian Open final by beating the teenager Chanda Rubin in three sets in Melbourne yesterday.

Seles faces the eighth seed, Anke Huber, after the German reached her first Grand Slam final with a three-set win over the South African Amanda Coetzer.

The 22-year-old Seles. favourite to win her ninth Grand Slam title in the absence of the injured Steffi Graf, came back from 5-2 down in the third set to win an epic semi-final 6-7, 6-1, 7-5 against the talented American, who was facing Seles for the first time.

Seles, the joint world No 1 who has suffered niggling injuries throughout the tournament, had to dig deep to level the match in the second set against an inspired Rubin after losing the first on a tie-break.

Rubin, who had beaten the world No 3. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, in a three and a half hour quarter-final, followed the same do-or-die approach and at 5-2 in the deciding set the Censome high balls. I changed the tre Court crowd scented an rhythm a little bit and that was upset. But Seles - never beaten in Australia in 31 matches. 27 of them at the Australian Open - had other ideas.

Seles held serve and at 5-3 she finally cracked Rubin's pound-

ing serve for the first time in the set and then broke again to set up a remarkable victory and bring the crowd to its feet.

Seles, who won the event three years running before her stabbing in April 1993, said she felt lucky to have reached the final. "I just can't believe it, because at 5-2 I was pretty sure it was goodbye," she said. "I'm very lucky to be in the final."

Rubin, who won a protracted standing ovation for her victory over Sanchez Vicario, said she tried to dominate Seles by going for her shots. "I tried to stay aggressive and I think I did that pretty well. I gave myself chances but I didn't close it out." Seles, who has beaten Huber

twice since coming back from her 28-month lay-off, predicted a hard-hitting final tomorrow. The German lived dangerously against 16th-seeded Coetzer. After losing the first set, she changed tactics and slowed down the pace of the match against the diminutive South African who was chasing down everything.

"I tried to hit too many winners." Huber said. "In the second set I played a little bit more topspins, the important thing."

week's Pan Pacific Open in



Results, Sporting Digest, page 23

Out of the shadows: Anke Huber, of Germany, on her way to beating Amanda Coetzer to reach her first Grand Stam final in Melbourne yesterday

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No.2893. Friday 26 January

ACROSS Pasta dish was exquisite (8) ing-room (11)
Carriage, one parked in dri- 24 Firm in Maine about to re-

Split duties in reorganisation 25 A rodent almost devoured

Swindle run by church? (6) 26 Using your holiday entitlement? Bon vovage! (5-6) 15 Young lecturer accepts English post (5)

17 Make great play of, possi-bly? (9) George is hopelessly round the bend - it's outrageous

19 Bit of self-indulgence that is 2 incorporated into routine, mostly? (3-2)

an electrical and and a

veal profit (6)

by an insect? Well! (8) Dress, with some hesitation, in horsehair? (6) 27 Security guard given to un-derstand student's hiding books at home (8)

DOWN

Greek character gets dungarees extremely tarry - he smears people (10) The occasional book, but no regular employment (6, 4) What's new in the fashion

Hooligans with missiles that can be hurled, by Jove? Let's have details (4, 3, 5) Cup competed for by Round Tablers (4, 5) Detail taken from recondite

manuscript (4) Uniform, in fact, is a topless pumber (4) Sever links with underworld business partner? (12) Main catchment area? (5.5) Coin princess possibly ob-

tained from mint (10) Showing more enthus supporter's put on an item of exercise kit (9) Seaman has an escape route abroad (5)

Layer of dust covering picture (4) Religious artefact often

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Norman conquers fever

ANDY FARRELL reports from Singapore

Greg Norman has had a lot to get off his chest here this week. Mainly, it has been the infection which was picked up from his son before leaving home on Sunday. That he played at all in the first round of the Johnnie Walker Classic, so earning a reputed £200,000 appearance fee. was a surprise after reports the previous day of his temperature

soaring into the 100s. Then, there was the misclubbing at the 15th on Tanah Merah's Garden Course which landed in the water. His caddie, Tony Navarro, got the blame for that, if not quite the club round his throat. "The worst part," Norman said after a one-underpar 71, "was not having seen the course before. Some holes I didn't know where to go, like on the par-five 15th. I was told to

Carl Hooper yesterday pulled

out of the West Indies World

Cup team to which he had been

named only the day before.

He said he would not be avail-

able for the subsequent home

series against New Zealand ei-

Hooper told the West Indies

board that, "given his mental

and physical state over the past

made "in his best interest and

that of West Indies cricket." He

said that once he was back in

shape he would be keen to

play for the West Indies again.

with the return of Brian Lara,

whose similarly late withdraw-

Hooper's decision coincides

his decision had to be

Cricket

TONY COZIER

yards, straight into the water. only one third European (and You don't like to make stupid mistakes, especially when laying up on a par five. Tony was glad to see me get mad because he said that means I care. You have to get it off your chest."
Two years ago, in Phuket,

Norman won the title after missing his practice rounds. Then he opened with a 75 to be nine shots behind the lead. This time he found himself only five adrift of his fellow Australian Bradley Hughes and Sweden's Olle Karlsson. "Two years ago, at least, I had been round in a buggy. This is the first time I have played a course blind in a tournament. On Wednesday it was very doubtful whether I would play. Friends said I should go home to Australia to rest for the weekend, but I felt I was improving."

Norman, like all the afternoon starters, was not helped by a thunder and lightning storm which suspended play for almost hit it 200 yards and it went 200 two hours. This event may be

Hooper pulls out of World Cup

Tony Cozier reports

for the troubled West

al from the recent tour of Aus-

tralia, although for different rea-sons, highlighted deep divisions

within the West Indies team.

It places Hooper's interna-

tional future in obvious doubt.

At 29, and a veteran of 52 Tests

and 140 one-day internationals,

he has never fulfilled his poten-

tial as either a batsman or an off-

spin bowler for the West Indies.

dogged by injury and illness and

he missed last year's tour of New

Zealand after contracting

malaria on the preceding tour

He became so disenchanted

with the game that he sought to

His career has often been

on a new problem

one third Australian and one third Asian), but there were enough Englishmen around to appropriate their national cricket team's ability for drought relief. The downpour meant 45 players failed to complete their

rounds after the resumption. The delay prevented Ernie Els joining Ian Woosnam in being honorary bartenders serving the Black Label at a charity do, but the South African will not have worried after producing a bogey-free 67. Woosnam, too, was probably unconcerned after an opening 69. Bernhard Langer and the defending champion, Fred Couples, are both lurking on 68, but the round of the day (relatively) belonged to John Daly. The Open champion joined Els on five under, in contrast to his 80 (with an eight at the first) in the same sponsor's World Championship a month ago

First-round scores Sporting Digest, page 23

abort his tour of England with

the West Indies last summer and

was only persuaded to contin-

ue after a session with the psy-

chologist Mike Brearley, the

former England captain. His place in the World Cup

squad had gone to the fast

bowler Cameron Cuffy, em-

phasising the absence of gifted all-rounders in the West Indies

The Border Cricket Board

have been fined 5,000 rand

(£914) by the United Cricket

Board of South Africa for

preparing a substandard pitch

for the sixth one-day interna-

tional between South Africa and

England in East London last

week. In the match, the sixth of

the seven one-day internation-

als, South Africa were bowled

out for 129 and England were

Waughs lift Australia, page 21

dismissed for 115.

at present.

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